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Volume 27, No. 8

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## Lucky Strikes

Junior I-back  
nets 233 yards,  
4 touchdowns  
in opener

FEATURING



Bo Ruud



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## Huskers Hit The Ground Running

*Keller's debut overshadowed by impressive rushing performance*



**Brian Hill**

IT LOOKED LIKE a blast from the past.

Nebraska ran the football 70 times, had more than twice as much yardage on the ground as through the air and played 70 players. Backup quarterback Joe Ganz ran a couple of option plays in the fourth quarter. And Nebraska dominated in the second half of a 52-10 season-opening victory.

With veteran I-backs Marlon Lucky and Cody Glenn missing practice time during training camp, there were questions about the Husker running game. It's still extremely early, but NU went a long way toward answering those questions on a sunny Saturday afternoon two days before Labor Day.

Lucky, a junior expected to carry the load after Brandon Jackson departed for the NFL, carried 30 times for 233 yards and three touchdowns. True freshman Quentin Castille provided a nice change of pace, using his 245 pounds to power his way through 18 carries for 78 yards and two scores. Glenn added 36 yards, Major Culbert had 35 and a touchdown, and Roy Helu added 26.

Lucky's 233 rushing yards were the most since Nebraska quarterback Jammal Lord rushed for 234 yards against Texas in 2002. The 413 rushing yards were the most under fourth-year coach Bill Callahan, bettering the 363 yards against Western Illinois in the 2004 season opener.

### ON THE COVER

Teammates Mike Huff (61), Brett Byford (59) and Sean Hill (86) celebrate with I-back Marlon Lucky after one of Lucky's four touchdowns in a season-opening 52-10 victory over Nevada. Cover photo by Scott Bruhn.

No, the Huskers haven't abandoned the West Coast offense.

"We wanted to run the ball today," Callahan said. "We wanted to do that going in. I think it's good early in the year to get your running game going. It's important to establish your rhythm and your timing and your reads and your progressions . . . Get those young backs going."

You can read more about Nebraska's impressive ground game in this edition of *Huskers Illustrated*. In this week's player feature, contributing editor Mike

Babcock takes a look at linebacker Bo Ruud, one of three seniors elected as captains for the 2007 season. Junior punter Dan Titchener answers "10 Questions." As always, there's much, much more.

Titchener was only needed twice in the opener, on NU's first and third possessions. Though it's hard to believe looking at the final score, the Huskers did struggle early and fell behind 10-7

when Nevada's Jonathon Amaya went 80 yards with an interception on a tipped pass early in the second period.

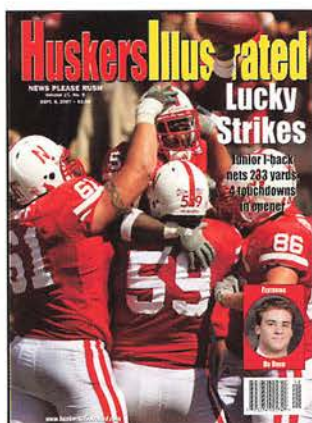
That was the only big negative of senior Sam Keller's quarterback debut. The Arizona State transfer finished 14-of-25 for 193 yards and one touchdown.

The Wolf Pack lead was short-lived, as Nebraska scored on its next two possessions to take a 21-10 lead, then dominated the third quarter to pull away.

The third-period outburst was definitely a good sign. The Huskers, who scored 49 points in the third quarter all of last season, tallied 24 points in the 15 minutes after halftime against Nevada.

Keller completed 6-of-7 passes for 105 yards in the that quarter, to go with 166 more yards rushing.

"I thought our stamina was excellent going into the second half," Callahan said. "We just kept running them. It's all we wanted to do . . ."



## Huskers Illustrated

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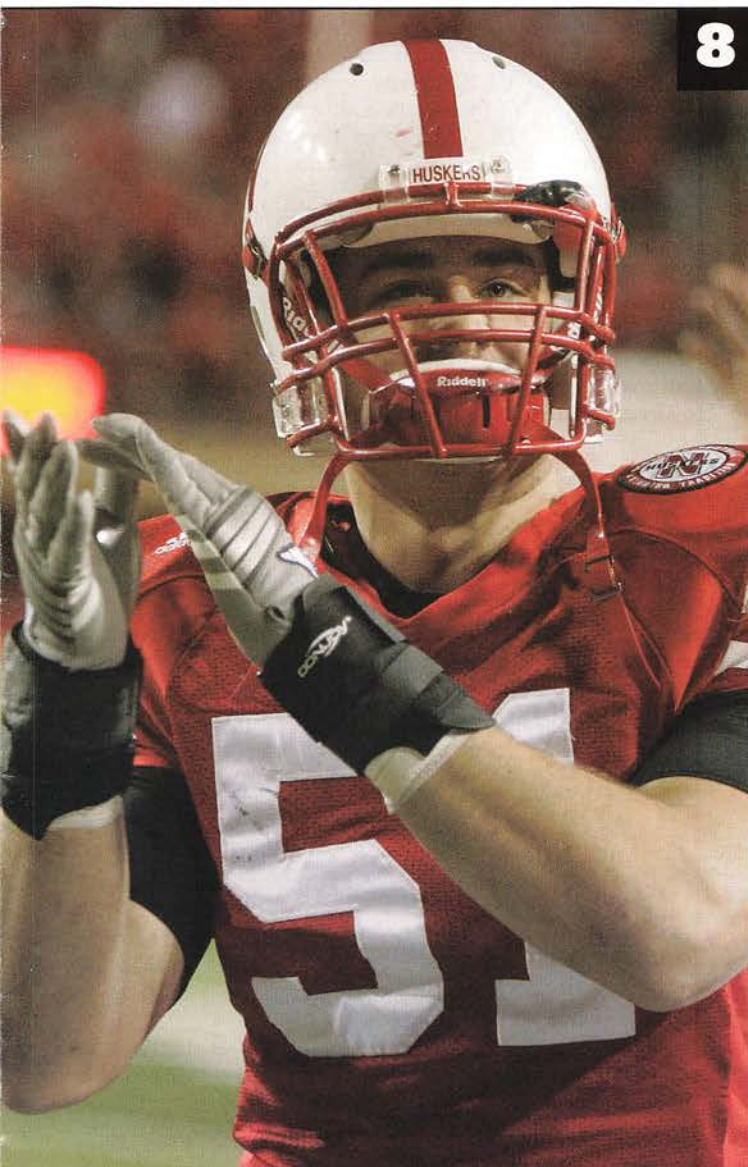
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# Huskers Illustrated

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Bo Ruud didn't hesitate to follow his brother, Barrett, making an oral commitment to Nebraska in June of 2001, prior to his junior year at Lincoln Southeast High School. It was the earliest commitment in Cornhusker history. By Mike Babcock

## NEXT ISSUE

The Wake Forest review/USC preview edition will be mailed on Sept. 10. Check for updates at [huskersillustrated.com](http://huskersillustrated.com).

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## Starting Over

*After living through Hurricane Katrina, NU freshman ready for just about anything*



**Terry DOUGLASS**

TO SAY TERENCE MOORE is a survivor has absolutely nothing to do with the Nebraska freshman defensive tackle making it through his first college football training camp.

The truth is, pressing on through the heat and exhaustion that comes with preseason practices pales in comparison to what the New Orleans native had to endure just to be a Cornhusker. As someone who lived through the horrors of Hurricane Katrina in 2005,

Moore knows that no matter what, the worst is probably behind him.

"It's going to be with me forever," Moore said. "It made me a better person. I made it through, and it isn't going to stop me."

Moore tries not to dwell on memories of the hurricane that destroyed the house he grew up in and forced him and his mother, Judy Hunter, to relocate temporarily to Spring, Texas. However, Moore does carry with him an attitude that if he can survive Katrina, he can make it through anything.

"Nothing again in my life will be harder than what I went through that year," Moore said, pausing to wipe tears from his cheeks and regain his composure. "But I fought through it."

Moore was only 16 years old when Katrina attacked the Gulf Coast region. He still vividly recalls watching streets flood within minutes and seeing bodies floating past him.

As a nurse, Hunter continued working in a hospital for a week after Katrina hit before rescue workers finally came and transported her and her son to safety. Moore had passed on numerous chances to leave, instead opting to stay with his mother at the hospital where he watched her grind through 20-hour days in adverse conditions.

"She was barely getting any rest at night," Moore said. "She had to help the patients, and a lot of them were dying. They didn't have lights or food, so it was kind of hard."

Moore and Hunter eventually landed in Spring, where they lived in a hotel for four months before they were finally able to find an apartment. Even with all the upheaval, Moore said his mother simply refused to allow him to let his responsibilities slide.

Moore maintained a 3.7 grade-point average at Spring. Despite his late arrival, he also worked his way into the football team's starting lineup.

"It's really something to go through at a really young age, but I adapted well," Moore said. "I made the best of the situation, and I guess that's why I was blessed and able to be where I'm at now. I didn't complain; I just did what I had to do."

After much consideration, Moore decided to move back to New Orleans for the 2006-07 school year. He said it was ultimately his choice, but he felt compelled to finish his prep football career at McDonogh High School — the same school that produced former Husker standout defensive lineman Neil Smith.

Starting over in New Orleans certainly wasn't easy. He had no place to live, and Hunter had to find a new job, but in the end, Moore said he had to remain true to his roots.

"I wanted to go back for my senior year at my school because we have a lot of tradition at my school. I had to go back," Moore said. "The coaches in Texas wanted me to stay, but I just couldn't abandon my high school team like that, so I went back."

"I was the leader. If I didn't come back, who were they going to look up to? We had a damn good season, too."

McDonogh had a 7-3 record and advanced to the second round of the Louisiana 4A state football playoffs. The 6-foot-3, 275-pound Moore had 81 tackles, including 31 tackles for loss, 14 sacks and two fumble recoveries his senior year to earn first-team all-metro and all-district honors.

However, while Moore was on his way to earning a scholarship, many of his friends who had also lived through Katrina weren't doing so well. Some of them had dropped out of school and several others were getting into trouble — something that's easier than ever now in New Orleans, Moore said.

"It's a lot of crime, a lot of killings, a lot of people getting murdered," Moore said of his hometown. "You're going to hear gunshots wherever you live. That's just the way it is."

But Moore was determined to stay of anything that might ruin his goal of playing Division I football.

"I'm real focused. I knew what I wanted," Moore said. "A lot of my friends, they were into that (bad) stuff, but I didn't let it rub off on me. I kept working. I tried to show them something different."

A three-star recruit, according to Rivals.com, Moore did indeed have options. He drew plenty of recruiting interest, most notably from Nebraska, Alabama, Missouri, Oklahoma State and Tulane,

but only visited Nebraska and signed with the Huskers — much to the delight of his mom.

"She's real proud of me," Moore said, noting that he's the baby of the family. "She breaks down every time I talk to her on the phone, but she's real proud of me."

Clearly, there's no doubt about the source of Moore's inspiration.

"My mom — I worked hard for her," Moore said. "She just worked so hard and stayed so strong. It enabled me to be where I am."

Moore said coming to Nebraska and being so far away from his mother has been very difficult. But just like before, Moore knows that he'll be all right.

"I adjusted OK because she raised me well," Moore said. "She prepared me for this. The first 18 years of my life was preparing me to come up here and succeed. She did a real good job." ■



**Terrence Moore**  
returned to New Orleans in 2006.

**Terry Douglass** is the sports editor of the Grand Island (Neb.) Independent. He can be reached at [terry.douglass@msn.com](mailto:terry.douglass@msn.com).

## Room For More

*Demon Deacons out to prove they're not a one-year wonder*



**Curt McKEEVER**

WANT TO WATCH a Wake Forest football practice? No problem. Grab a spot along "The Wall" that overlooks the Demon Deacons' grass fields, and you might actually wind up talking to Jim Grobe, named by many organizations as the 2006 national coach of the year.

No need to arrive early, either. Despite Wake's run to an 11-3 record that included the school's first Atlantic Coast Conference championship in 36 years and a berth in the 2007 Orange Bowl, you'll find plenty of elbow room along The Wall.

At one early-August evening session, center Steve Justice noticed a group that appeared to approach 100 strong — or about five times the usual number.

"My girlfriend comes out and brings our dog and can watch practice," Justice told the Winston-Salem (N.C.) Journal. "We love that atmosphere that Coach Grobe brings to practices."

And why change now?

Although outsiders may have a new perception of the Demon Deacons after their surprising breakthrough 2006 season, Grobe is plowing ahead with his easy-going, straightforward manner.

In other words, don't forget where you came from.

"I think the best thing we can tell them is to 'put your championship rings in a safe place, quit sitting in class looking at them, and let's get started over again,'" Grobe said. "I thought with what we did last year, last year's team has a lot to be proud of. I'm really talking to our seniors now as much as anybody that 'hey this is your team. This is what you're going to be remembered for. And even though you feel good about last year, this is the year that you're going to remember the most.'

"We'd like to think that all our kids still enjoy what went on last year but are hungry to start a new season."

Grobe, who produced winning seasons with his first two teams, but then had three straight losers, will admit that Wake's success of 2006 was not exactly planned. When he began seeing the benefits of redshirting entire freshmen classes a few years back, he believed that 2007 would be the year that everything came together.

Now, it looks to be the year his program will be out to prove it's mature enough to handle big-time success.

In 2006, the Demon Deacons ranked just seventh in the ACC in total offense and ninth in total defense. But they also had a positive turnover margin that ranked No. 2 in the league.

And Grobe had reason to figure his 2007 bunch would have a decent chance of improving in all of those areas.

For starters, quarterback Riley Skinner, last year's ACC Rookie of the Year, was back. Last season, Skinner's 2,053 passing yards and nine TDs didn't crack top-10 single-season lists at Wake. But his 65.8 completion percentage was the best in school history, while his five interceptions were the fewest among ACC quarterbacks.

Skinner, the last player of his class to be given a scholarship, wound up directing the Demon Deacons to a school-record victory total after junior quarterback Ben Mauk broke his arm in the opener.

"He's been a little bit sheltered I think because he was young last year, and the expectations weren't very high," Grobe said of Skinner. "I think this year the expectations will be a little higher for him."

"But I can tell you that he's one of those guys who cares very little about stats and cares very little about anybody patting him on the back. He just wants to win football games."

Known as much for what he didn't do, statistically, the Jacksonville, Fla., product enjoyed a strong spring and then, in three fall scrimmages, completed 37 of 47 passes for 378 yards.

So, perhaps, Grobe will be having his quarterback take more chances this season?

"I wish," Skinner said. "But no, because I think that one thing that helps us win is when you don't gamble. Sometimes, depending on the situation, you may have to go for a gamble shot. But on a consistent basis, that's what helps our team get the wins on Saturday, to not turn the ball over."

Skinner's beyond-his-years headiness definitely has a calming influence on a team that opened its season at Boston College on Sept. 1 and then returns to play Nebraska the next week. But it's not like the Demon Deacons have no concerns.

All-ACC middle linebacker Jon Abbate left for the NFL with a year of eligibility remaining, and the player expected to take his place, Eric Berry, became academically ineligible. Now, the defense is looking at starting the season with new starters at seven positions.

Additionally, Wake's most accomplished running back, Micah Andrews, is coming back from knee surgery to repair a torn ACL.

But the Demon Deacons still have two veteran receivers and plenty of experience on the line. Surely, then, Grobe will count on the offense a little more than he did last season, when many games were left in the hands of the defense, special teams and All-America kicker Sam Swank (who's back).

"If your offense is a little more veteran than your defense, you start to worry about that, and that's the position we're in," Grobe said. "We would expect our offense to be better this year, quite frankly, not to put any more pressure on, but we would expect to be a little more productive."

"Defensively, I think we're every bit as talented as we were last year. We have some depth issues at linebacker, and in some cases we're asking some young guys to step up."

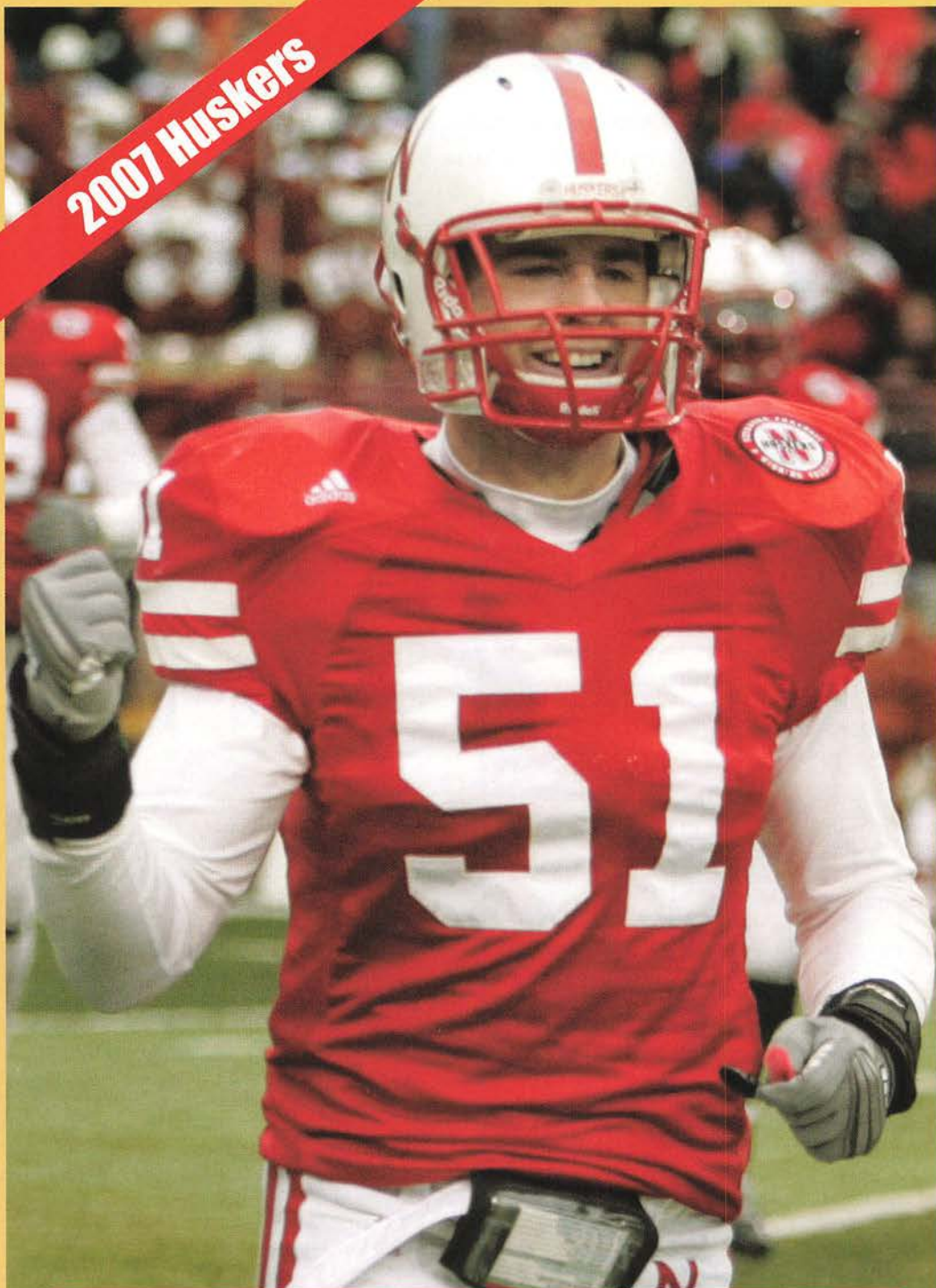
But if change allows Wake to keep things as they were in 2006, the devoted, but small band of folks who've been taking in practice from their spacious views along "The Wall" could have to make some room. ■



**Jim Grobe won coach of the year honors in 2006.**

*Curt McKeever is a sportswriter for the Lincoln Journal Star. In addition to reporting on football, he is the primary beat writer for baseball. Curt can be reached at cmckeever@journalstar.com*

**2007 Huskers**



**Bo Ruud**  
**SAM Linebacker**

# 'Bo's A Nice Guy, But He'll Get Ornerly'

By MIKE BABCOCK ● PHOTOS: SCOTT BRUHN

**A**n imaginary game clock would wind down. Three, two, one . . . Bo Ruud would release the basketball. Or his brother Barrett would. Which of the two didn't matter because the scenario would be the same. As the game-winning shot settled in the net, the shooter would high-tail it for the house, hoping to shut the door before the ball arrived.

Tarry and the winner would get plunked in the backside by the ball.

There was no time for celebration, just sprint for the door.

"We were always pretty even in basketball, so it was as competitive as heck," Bo Ruud said, recalling the pick-up games. "It would almost make the other guy insane he would be so mad."

Andy Sand smiled at the question: What makes Bo Ruud mad?

"Video games, any kind of sports game," Sand said.

Madden Football, for example. Sand would take a team with a mobile quarterback, Donovan McNabb maybe, and have him leave the pocket, scramble, what Bo considered a "cheap" move.

And if such "cheap" moves led to victory, well . . .

"It just ticked him off to lose," said Sand. "He wouldn't be throwing fits, but you could tell he wouldn't be too happy, either. He'll say the same thing about me."

Hey, Bo, Andy said he can make you mad playing video games.

"He says that? He's a real quiet guy, you've got to understand. But I can make him throw his controller against the wall, stomp his feet on the ground, go in his room, slam the door and lock it. That's how mad I can make him. I get a little mad. But I can make him 10 times madder.

"You wouldn't understand; that guy has a worse temper than me. So I think you should print that. He's the

quiet guy who can turn into a hurricane."

Sand also said you would say that, Bo.

"Oh yeh?" said Ruud. "That's how it is."

Sand is like extended family, you could say. He and Ruud have been teammates for about as long as they've been playing football. They were on the Leon's Market youth-league team and then at Lincoln Southeast High School. And they've been roommates at Nebraska.

Video-game outbursts aside, "I'm really proud of Andy. He's a guy that worked hard for four years, but no one's ever heard of him. He absolutely worked his butt off," Ruud said.

"I've got a lot of respect for what he's done."

Sand climbed to the top of the depth chart at fullback during training camp.

The senior walk-on, who switched from tight end in training camp a year ago, has similar respect for Ruud. "He's pretty laid back, just like his brother," said Sand. "Barrett was the same way."

Barrett plays middle linebacker in the NFL, for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. This is his third season. But that hasn't changed him. "Not at all," Sand said. "When he comes back, he's still the same Barrett. He hasn't changed a bit. He's still a humble guy. He never gets cocky."

Bo is like his brother in that respect, too.

Comparisons to Barrett are inevitable, of course. The brothers are less than 16 months apart in age, and they've been teammates growing up, playing two years together at Southeast High and one at Nebraska. Bo redshirted his first season, in 2003, while Barrett played as a true freshman, straight through.

Barrett, a middle linebacker, was first-team All-Big 12 as a senior and finished as the leading career tackler in Cornhusker history, with 432 during his four seasons, three as a starter.

Bo didn't hesitate to follow his brother, making an oral commitment to Nebraska in June of 2001, prior to his junior year at Southeast, the earliest commitment in Cornhusker history.

FEATURING  
BO  
RUUD



Bo Ruud makes the switch to SAM linebacker this season, after two seasons as a starter on the weak side.

He has never felt pressure because of his brother. "It's not really an issue, at all," he said. "Everybody always asks me that, since I was in high school. That's not how my family works."

"Family" is the operative word there. If his is not the first family of Cornhusker football, it is certainly in the discussion, along with the Fischers, including brothers Clete, Ken, Rex and Pat, all Cornhusker football lettermen from the late 1940s to 1960, Pat's senior season.

Tom Ruud set a standard for his sons, earning first-team All-Big Eight recognition in 1974, as well as serving as a co-captain, an honor bestowed on both Barrett and Bo by their teammates as well.

Tom, who came from Bloomington, Minn., also played linebacker. He and Bob Nelson, a linebacker from Stillwater, Okla., were referred to as the "Minnesota Twins." Both were selected by the Buffalo Bills in the 1975 NFL draft, Ruud in the first round, Nelson in the second.

Ruud played five NFL seasons.

Nelson played 11.

In addition, Bo and Barrett have two uncles who played at Nebraska, John Ruud and Bob Martin, as well as their great-grandfather, Clarence Swanson, a member of the College Football Hall of Fame.

John Ruud, a linebacker (1978-79), is best-known for his ball-dislodging tackle of punt returner Kelly Phelps in the Cornhuskers' 17-14 upset of No. 1-ranked Oklahoma at Memorial Stadium in 1978, while Martin (1973-75) was a two-time All-Big Eight defensive end and co-captain. Swanson (1918-21) played end and was the captain of coach Fred Dawson's first team in 1921. The Cornhuskers won the Missouri Valley Conference title and finished 7-1, their only loss coming against Notre Dame, 7-0.

With such a family background, Bo and his brother were born to play football at Nebraska it would seem. But Tom Ruud didn't push his sons into football. He "actually encouraged us to play golf," Bo said. "I think he was smart and knew football's not

the easiest sport on your body to play."

"But because he played, we drifted toward football."

Bo began playing golf, at his dad's urging, when he was 5-years-old. He and Nick Bahe played all the time when they were young. Their parents would leave them off at the Country Club of Lincoln in the morning and pick them up in the late afternoon. They played golf and went swimming.

Bahe, like Sand, is extended family, Bo's best friend "on earth."

They still play golf together at the Country Club when there's time. Bahe plays basketball at Creighton, after beginning his college career as a walk-on at Kansas.

Bahe comes by his athleticism naturally, too. His dad Ritch (1972-74) and uncle Chip (1987-89) both played football at Nebraska. Ritch Bahe and Tom Ruud were teammates, in fact.

Nick Bahe was an all-state quarterback at Southeast High. But his best sport was basketball. He was the 2003 Gatorade Player of the Year in

**"It's not really an issue, at all. Everybody always asks me that, since I was in high school. That's not how my family works."**

— Bo Ruud (on feeling pressure because of his brother)

Nebraska. So "I'd have to convince him, 'Make sure, no matter what, you've always got to play football through high school,'" Bo said.

"And he was like, 'No matter what, you've always got to play basketball.'"

For a time, Bo considered collegiate basketball, his other varsity sport in high school. Maybe he could earn a basketball scholarship somewhere. He "kept an open mind" about it his first couple of years in high school, he said. But it became clear that his athletic future would be in football, as a linebacker rather than as a running back, which he played on offense — as Barrett did.

Bo was a good running back. He grew up a fan of Cleveland Browns' Hall of Famer Jim Brown and wore a No. 32 jersey like Brown, from youth league through high school. But his body type is a better fit for a linebacker. "You don't see many guys 6-foot-3, 230 pounds, taller guys, playing running back anymore. I'm fast, but I'm fast for a linebacker, not for a running back," he said.

So when he got to Nebraska, he picked a No. 51 jersey. He also liked Chicago Bears' Hall of Fame linebacker Dick Butkus. "I saw 51 open and I wanted to wear it," said Ruud.

Football was an escape for him last season, the first without his mom Jaime in the stands cheering his efforts. She died of a heart attack the previous June, while on a family vacation in Minnesota.

Dealing with her loss still isn't easy. "I try not to think about it, focus on what's at-hand," he said. "I tried to use football as a distraction, as best I could."

Jaime Ruud held things together for all of them, Bo and Barrett and their sister Kim, a junior at Nebraska. "My mom really made our lives great," said Bo. "My mom was in

charge.

"She kind of took care of everybody. We all had to grow up a little bit and learn how to do a lot of things we weren't used to doing. That was tough, too."

Bo doesn't often show his emotions on the field, at least not anger, or not very often anyway, though he does have his moments. "I know when he gets mad," defensive coordinator and linebackers coach Kevin Cosgrove said. "It's a quiet mad. Bo's a nice guy, but he'll get ornery."

Corey McKeon, a member of the same recruiting class, imagined Bo and Barrett as "human-eaters," thanks to the imagination of high

school teammate Sean Hill, a Cornhusker tight end.

Hill was a Nebraska football fan in high school and knew about Barrett Ruud, his dad and his uncles. "You'd go up to him like, 'Hey, Mr. Ruud,' and he'd take a bite out of your arm," said McKeon, who figured Bo was bound to be as intimidating as his middle linebacker brother.

"Oh man, he probably eats people," McKeon said, recalling what he expected.

When they met for the first time in the summer before their freshman year, it went something like this, according to McKeon, who's been known to embellish a story in its telling.

"Hey, man, I'm Corey."

Bo: "Hey, how you doing? Let's go hang out."

"Biggest cupcake in the world," said McKeon.

With a couple of footnotes, maybe.

Three, two one . . .

The shot leaves Barrett's hand, nothing but net.

Or Sand's Madden Football quarterback leaves the pocket . . . ■

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# 10 QUESTIONS



## with **DAN TITCHENER**

**Junior Punter  
Cheyenne, Wyo.**

**C**olumbia was a nice place to visit. But Dan Titchener wouldn't want to go to school there.

Titchener made a recruiting visit to the Ivy League school, located in New York City. He went there in late January of his senior year in high school and enjoyed the trip. Among other things, he attended the football team's postseason banquet at a restaurant on Times Square, near the MTV studios.

"It was incredible, just a really good experience," he said.

But he realized that weekend Columbia wasn't the school for him.

"It was pretty crazy there. The lifestyle, the fast pace, there was no way I could handle that," he said. "I'm just more of a laid-back person. This was more my speed, a Midwest kind of attitude."

Oh yes, tuition at Columbia was "40-some thousand a year."

That left Nebraska and Wyoming as the choices. Wyoming was close to home, of course. "All my family went there, and my brother is going there," said Titchener. "But I didn't get a good vibe from their football program. They didn't seem like they really wanted me. So this was an easy choice."

"By far, Nebraska had the best tradition. They cared about academics, and it was fairly close to home, close enough that my parents could come out every game but I was far enough away to be on my own."

In addition, even though he would have to walk on, he qualified for a New Nebraskan Scholarship because of his academic success in high school and a high ACT score. That allowed him to pay in-state tuition instead of higher out-of-state tuition. "So it just seemed like a good fit," he said.

### **What's the best thing served at the training table?**

"I really like their chicken parmesan. That's one of my favorite meals. It's not one of their usual dishes, but they

have it just often enough that I can have it every time and not get sick of it."

### **What's your most embarrassing moment on a football field, here or in high school?**

"My friends used to give me a hard time in high school. I caught the longest touchdown pass in the state my junior year, and my best friend was one of our wide receivers; I played tight end. I caught sort of an 'out route,' turned up field and ran down the sideline for a touchdown. He came from the opposite side of the field and caught me, passed me, and then turned around and helped block for me. He was making fun of me, telling me that if he was on the other team, I would have been tackled."

### **What three things do you have to have on your MP3 player?**

"Def Leppard, Tom Petty and probably the Eagles; I'm a classic rock kind of guy."

### **Who's the funniest guy on the team?**

"I'd probably say Andre Jones. I lived with him this summer and got to know him. He's just a hilarious guy. I can just laugh every time I talk to him."

### **What do you remember most about the first game you ever attended at Nebraska?**

"I came out to the Utah State game my senior year in high school. Being down on the field when the team came out was the loudest I've ever heard a stadium. It was incredible."

### **Who's your favorite punter in the NFL?**

"Well, obviously, I'm a Sam Koch fan, with him being here and kind of being my mentor my first two years. And I talk with Kyle Larson a lot on the phone about any problems we're having. I'm a huge Broncos fan, so I'm kind of partial to Todd Sauerbrun right now, even though he had that whole Ephedra thing and didn't get to play last year. Anyone who's punting for them is probably my favorite."

### **What's the best movie you've seen recently?**

"That's a tough one. I'm a huge movie fan. Probably my all-time favorite would be 'The Big Lebowski.' I watch that quite often. I have it on DVD, probably need to buy another copy. I'm wearing it out. It's hilarious. Every line in the movie, I can recite. It cracks me up."

### **If someone visited you in Cheyenne, what would you want to show them?**

"I would definitely show them Frontier Days. It's the only time worth being in Cheyenne is what I say, the World's Largest Outdoor Rodeo. The town triples in population for 10 straight days. There are concerts every night, rodeo every day, a big carnival. It's just really a huge party for 10 days."

### **Sky diving, bungee jumping or rock climbing?**

"None of the above. I am probably the least risky person you will ever meet. I never do anything. I play it safe more than anybody I've ever known."

### **If you could eat only one thing for the next month, what would it be?**

"Probably Subway. I ate a lot of it in the summer. It's fairly cheap and pretty healthy for you. I always get a Subway club." ■

## TRUE FRESHMEN WHO PLAYED IN BILL CALLAHAN'S FIRST THREE SEASONS

(Callahan doesn't hesitate to use freshmen, particularly on special teams)

### 2004

Lance Brandenburg, LB  
(Overland Park, Kan.)  
Beau Davis, QB (Venice, Calif.)  
Cortney Grixby, DB (Omaha)  
Brandon Jackson, RB (Horn Lake, Miss.)  
Michael Keenan, LB (Kansas City, Mo.)  
Terrence Nunn, WR (Houston, Texas)  
Santino Panico, WR (Libertyville, Ill.)

### 2005

Harrison Beck, QB (Clearwater, Fla.)  
Chris Brooks, WR (St. Louis, Mo.)  
Jordan Congdon, PK (San Diego, Calif.)  
Phillip Dillard, LB (Tulsa, Okla.)  
Cody Glenn, RB (Rusk, Texas)  
Leon Jackson, RB (Pasco, Wash.)  
Marlon Lucky, RB  
(North Hollywood, Calif.)  
Zach Potter, DE (Omaha, Neb.)  
Matt Slauson, OL  
(Colorado Springs, Colo.)  
Jeff Souder, DB (Bellevue, Neb.)  
Ndamukong Suh, DL (Portland, Ore.)  
Hunter Teafatiller, TE (Kingsburg, Calif.)  
Barry Turner, DE (Antioch, Tenn.)

### 2006

Major Culbert, DB (Harbor City, Calif.)  
Jacob Hickman, OL (Bakersfield, Calif.)  
Menelik Holt, WR (San Diego, Calif.)  
Rickey Thenarse, DB (Los Angeles)  
Corey Young, DB (Bellevue, Neb.)

## GAMES AGAINST TEAMS FROM NORTH CAROLINA

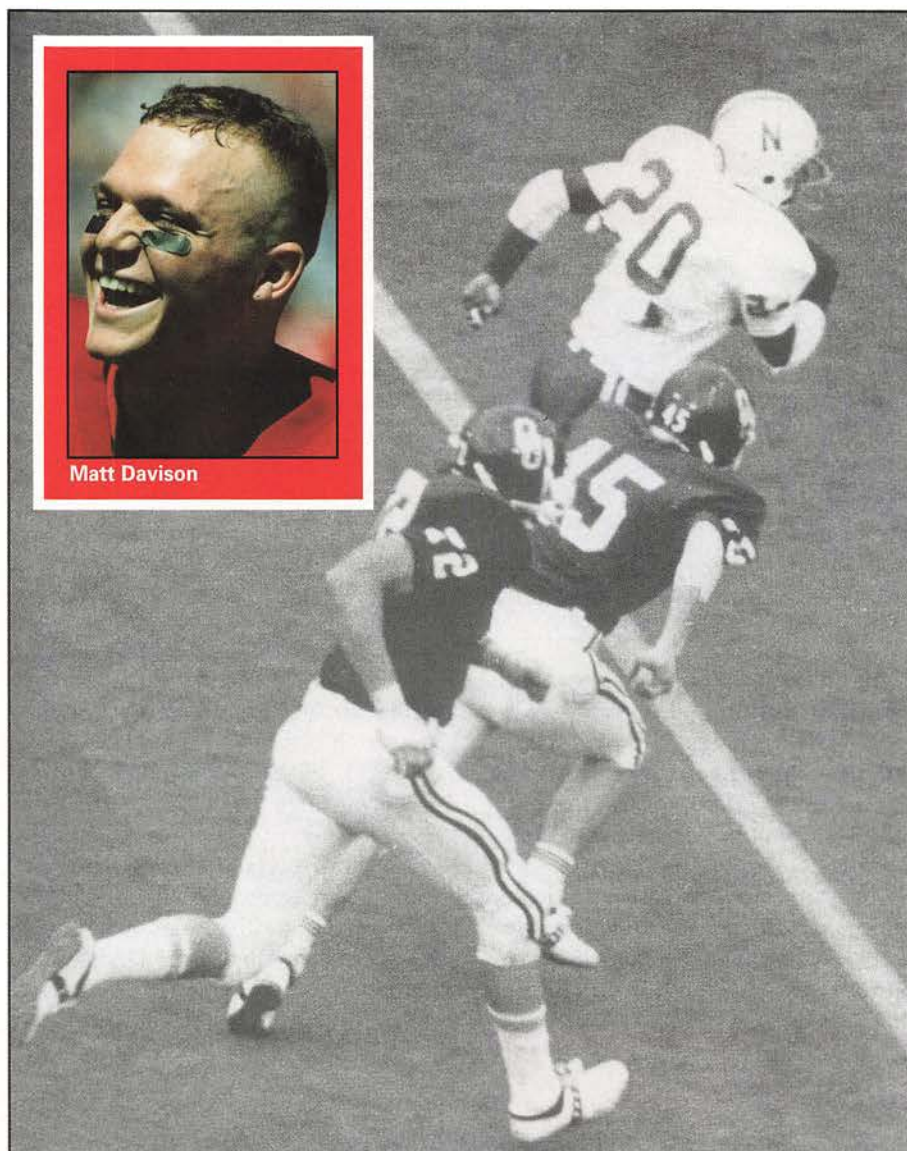
(The Cornhuskers are 5-1 against opponents from North Carolina)

Duke	1955 Orange Bowl	34-7 (L)
North Carolina State	1962 at Lincoln	19-14 (W)
Wake Forest	1970 at Lincoln	36-12 (W)
North Carolina State	1973 at Lincoln	31-14 (W)
North Carolina	1977 Liberty Bowl	21-17 (W)
Wake Forest	2005 at Lincoln	31-3 (W)

## STATES IN WHICH THE CORNHUSKERS HAVE PLAYED

(Nebraska will be playing for the first time in the state of North Carolina)

Alabama	Mississippi
Arizona	Missouri
California	Nebraska
Colorado	New Jersey
Florida	New York
Hawaii	Ohio
Illinois	Oklahoma
Indiana	Oregon
Iowa	Pennsylvania
Kansas	South Carolina
Louisiana	Texas
Michigan	Washington
Minnesota	Wisconsin



Matt Davison

(Johnny Rodgers' career-receiving records, once seemingly unbreakable, are likely to fall in the not-too-distant future, under an assault facilitated by coach Bill Callahan's West Coast offense. This season, Huskers Illustrated takes a look at the all-time best receivers, as senior Terrence Nunn continues to climb on the all-time receptions list, topped by Rodgers.)

### MATT DAVISON (1997-2000) No. 3 6-1, 185 Tecumseh, Neb.

Davison finished second to Johnny Rodgers in career receptions with 93 and career receiving yards with 1,454, and is now third behind Terrence Nunn in the former category. He led the Cornhuskers in receptions his final three seasons, including a career-high 32 (for 394 yards) as a sophomore. Official NCAA statistics did not yet include bowl games or Davison would have become the second Cornhusker with 100 career catches. He played in four bowl games, catching nine passes for 243 yards and two touchdowns. He caught six regular-season touchdown passes during his career, including arguably the most dramatic in Cornhusker history, a Scott Frost pass deflected off the leg of Shevin Wiggins and into his hands on the final play in regulation to force overtime at Missouri in 1997 and keep Nebraska's national championship run alive. Nebraska had never run that particular pass play, "99 double-slant" in a game. Davison, an all-class, all-state wide receiver at a Class C high school, was among six true freshmen who played in 1997. He also played one semester for the Cornhusker basketball team, 15 games, starting twice. He now works for the Husker Sports Network, assisting with football and providing color analysis on the basketball broadcasts. ■

# More Targets

***NU looks to add to talented group of receiving prospects***

**By Rick Shaw**

**N**ebraska already has scored commitments from a trio of top-flight receiver prospects. However, it hopes to add, at least, a couple more pass catching threats to the 2008 recruiting class before February's National Letter of Intent Signing Day.

The Huskers have managed to compile a strong, yet unheralded, set



D.J. Woods



Adrian Hilburn

of receivers heading into the home stretch of recruiting. D.J. Woods, a 6-foot, 169-pound speed-burner (4.35-second 40-yard dash) out of Strongsville, Ohio, turned down scholarship offers from Ohio State, Penn State, Auburn, and others, for a chance to catch passes in Lincoln. Junior college star Adrian Hilburn (6-2, 190) said no to Tennessee for an opportunity to reunite with former

City College of San Francisco teammate Zac Lee at Nebraska. Finally, junior college sleeper Tyson Hetzer jumped on to the Nebraska recruiting train earlier this summer, after his abilities on the basketball court captured the interests of the Husker coaching staff.

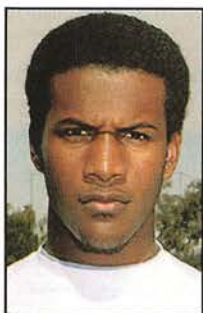
Which receiving threats are still on the Husker radar heading into the fall? One of the main targets, Raevon Samuel, will be taking his first official visit of the recruiting process to Lincoln during the weekend of Sept. 15 to watch Nebraska take on USC.

The 6-5, 190-pound receiver out of Canyon Springs High School in Las Vegas is one of the more heavily recruited prospects in the West. Rated a four-star prospect and No. 2 overall in the state by Rivals.com, Samuel already holds more than 15 Division I scholarship offers. The Huskers are

## NEBRASKA COMMITMENTS FOR 2008

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	40	Hometown (School)
Will Compton	LB	6-2	214	4.5	Bonne Terre, Mo. (North County)
Sean Fisher	LB	6-5	210	4.6	Omaha, Neb. (Millard North)
Blaine Gabbert	QB	6-4	226	4.65	Ballwin, Mo. (Parkway West)
Bryce Givens	OL	6-6	257	5.1	Denver, Colo. (J.K. Mullen)
Jonas Gray	RB	5-10	213	4.44	Detroit, Mich. (Country Day)
Eric Harper	DE	6-4	220	4.62	Marrero La. (John Ehret)
Ricky Henry	OL	6-4	300	5.2	Omaha, Neb. (Burke/North Dakota State College of Science)
Tyson Hetzer	TE	6-7	265	4.75	Glendora, Calif. (Citrus CC)
Adrian Hilburn	WR	6-2	190	4.4	San Francisco, Calif. (City College of SF)
Dan Hoch	OL	6-6	295	5.21	Harlan, Iowa
Keelan Johnson	DB	6-0	195	4.5	Mesa, Ariz.
John Levorson	ATH	6-4	185	4.55	Crete, Neb.
Cameron Meredith	DE	6-4	222	4.6	Santa Ana, Calif. (Mater Dei)
Shaun Mohler	LB	6-3	225	4.6	Costa Mesa, Calif. (Orange Coast CC)
Collins Okafor	RB	6-1	210	4.54	Omaha, Neb. (Westside)
Darius Parish	DT	6-3	325	5.08	Wichita, Kan.
Doug Rippey	LB	6-2	218	4.6	Columbus, Ohio (McKinley)
Baker Steinkuhler	OL	6-6	290	4.88	Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest)
David Whitmore	DB	6-2	190	4.5	Port Arthur, Texas (Memorial)
Josh Williams	DE	6-4	220	4.8	Denton, Texas (Ryan)
D.J. Woods	WR	6-0	169	4.35	Strongsville, Ohio

For more daily recruiting information, visit [HuskersIllustrated.com](http://HuskersIllustrated.com), a member of the [Rivals.com](http://Rivals.com) network.



Raevon Samuel



D.L. Moore

currently in a battle with Arizona, Arizona State, Colorado, Oregon, West Virginia, Rutgers and a host of others for his college services.

Samuel earned first-team all-state honors in 2006 after catching 57 passes for 937 yards and 13 touchdowns. Canyon Springs coach Matt Jenkins admitted that the Cornhuskers currently stand in very good position with his star receiving threat.

"Raevon is 6-foot-5 and jumps out of the building," Jenkins said. "No one has better specs as a football player than him. He runs a consistent 4.5-second 40-yard dash and has great hands."

"Raevon and I have not sat down and had a conversation, but I can tell you that Nebraska is on his short list. He's still trying to absorb it all now, but Nebraska is in his top five and up there with Arizona, Arizona State, West Virginia, and probably Rutgers as well. That's me speculating, but his two best relationships are with Nebraska and Arizona."

D.L. Moore is yet another tall receiver who Nebraska hopes to lure to campus. The 6-4, 178-pounder from Bowling Green, Ky., lists the Huskers, along with South Carolina, Colorado and Purdue as his preferred college destinations.

Moore used his tall frame and 38-inch vertical leap to catch 28 passes for 468 yards and three touchdowns in 2006. Rated the No. 4 prospect in the state by Rivals.com, Moore said he's currently working with the Husker coaching staff to firm up an official visit date this fall.

"I just need to go up there and take a visit," Moore said. "I just don't know much about them right now."

"I like the way that they run the West Coast offense, so I think I could be a pretty active part of their offense if I was to go there. I need to set up a visit there sometime very soon."

## RECRUITING NOTES

# Comfortable with Lincoln

By Sean Stevens

**T**he 2008 Nebraska recruiting class grows almost weekly. The latest addition is Santa Ana, Calif., defensive end Cameron Meredith. The 6-foot-4, 222-pounder chose Nebraska over offers from Oklahoma, Oregon, Arizona and Colorado, among others.

"It wasn't just one reason. There were a bunch of things that made me choose Nebraska," Meredith said. "Probably the main reason was the people. That was a real big separator. Everyone from the gas station guy to the head coach were all good, down-to-earth people."

"It was also the legacy of Nebraska football, Coach (Bill) Callahan, the history and tradition. I just felt the most comfortable there."

Meredith earned all-league honors as a junior, recording 60 tackles and eight sacks. Rivals.com ranks him as the No. 16 weakside defensive end in the country and the No. 57 player in California at all positions.

Meredith and his family spent four days in Lincoln in August, and the experience had an impact on their choice.

"Everyone just loves Nebraska football," he said. "Everyone in the town supports Nebraska football. I can't imagine on game day how many people are out and about watching football."

The trip also helped Meredith's parents feel comfortable sending their son so far away for college.

"We felt good about it," Katherine Meredith said. "We didn't know what to expect, but once we got there we felt like 'yeah, I'm comfortable leaving my son here'. I really believe that they will give him all of the support that he needs and develop him into not only a good person off the field but also as a football player."

\*\*\*

Nebraska continues to compete for the commitments of three other highly ranked prospects.

● Linebacker Kenny Demens (6-1, 224) from Detroit, Mich., is down to Nebraska and Michigan. He planned an announcement in early September but still doesn't have a decision.

"One day it's Nebraska, and one day it's Michigan," he said. "Right now, I'm not sure. With Nebraska, I have a better relationship with the guys committed there than the guys who are committed to Michigan. Michigan, it's being home, and my family is talking about Michigan."

● Elkhorn, Neb., offensive lineman Trevor Robinson (6-6, 304) committed to the Huskers in June and then re-opened his recruiting in July.

He visited Lincoln for a practice in early August and enjoyed his time. Another positive is Robinson's relationships with some current commitments.

"I talked to Jonas (Gray) for 15 minutes the other day, and Blaine (Gabbert) texts me every now and then," Robinson said. "I was in Denver with my girlfriend for a little vacation, and I called Bryce Givens and had dinner with him one night at a restaurant."

● Defensive end Simi Kuli (6-4, 270) of El Camino College in Torrance, Calif., has narrowed things to Nebraska and Texas A&M, and plans to visit both schools in October.

"Simi is really high on Nebraska," said Kuli's coach Tim Hyde. "He is comfortable with Nebraska, but he is not ready to say 'yes'. He told me that he wants to go to a school that he can play right away, and he feels Nebraska is No. 1, and A&M is No. 2." ■



Cameron Meredith

Moore said he plans to visit Colorado and South Carolina in September. He said he hopes to make it to Lincoln before the start of October.

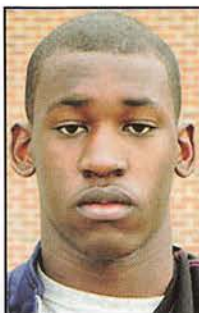
Nebraska also seems to be devoting a lot of attention toward landing another tight end prospect in this year's class. Two players still in NU's sites, are athletes that have the resumes to bring big play ability to that position at the college level.

Dion Jordan, an outstanding athlete from Chandler, Ariz., is scheduled to visit Lincoln during the week-end of Sept. 15. Rivals.com rates him as the No. 11 tight end prospect.

"The main thing that teams want



Dion Jordan



Aldon Smith

anymore is to put great athletes on the field," Chandler coach Jim Ewan said. "The trend right now is to find 6-foot-5 or taller receivers and have them match up against the smaller defensive backs. Dion definitely fits

that mold as he is already a shade over 6-6 with track speed (4.6 40).

"However, I can see why some schools like Nebraska are also intrigued with his potential on the defensive side of the ball, too. He's just so talented."

A first-team all-state tight end as a junior, Jordan caught 54 passes for 804 yards and 13 touchdowns in 2006. He's earned scholarship offers from a host of schools, including Arizona, Arizona State, California, Michigan, Oregon, Oregon State and Washington, in addition to Nebraska. Ewan said the Huskers have been as good as any school, early on, at recruiting his star prospect.

"His top schools are Oregon, Arizona, Nebraska, Michigan, Oregon State and Cal," Ewan said. "Bill Busch has done a great job of recruiting him. He's just been tenacious. He and a couple of other coaches are just so thorough in the way they do their jobs."

Though not as heralded as Jordan, Aldon Smith is another tall, athletic tight end prospect who lists Nebraska among his current favorites. The 6-5, 235-pounder out of Raytown, Mo., also hopes to visit Lincoln during the weekend of Sept. 15. The Huskers are currently competing with Big 12 North rivals Missouri and Kansas State for Smith's signature.

"Those three schools are my three offers right now, and I like them all," Smith said. "There really isn't any ranking order of them right now. Nebraska probably had the nicest facilities of any of them, but Missouri was pretty strong there, too. We'll see what happens."

Smith, rated the No. 6 prospect in Missouri by Rivals.com, caught 18 passes for 285 yards and three touchdowns as a junior. On defense, he registered 49 tackles, including 12 for losses.

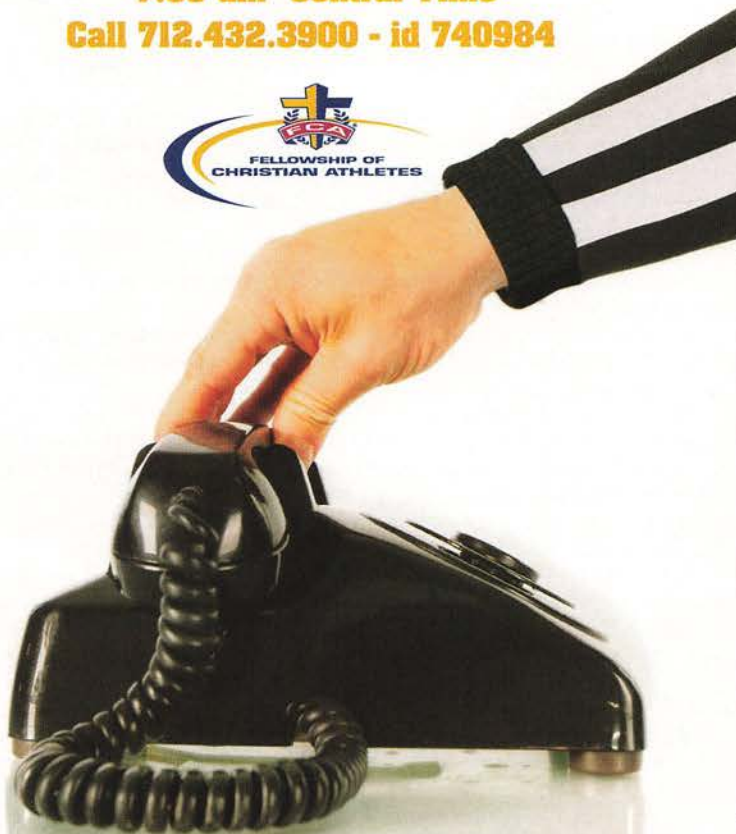
The Cornhuskers have already managed to add a great deal of speed and athleticism to their receiving corp with the commitments of three talented prospects. However, the Nebraska coaching staff hopes to build on to a very good start to the class of 2008, by adding other home run threats at wide receiver and tight end. ■

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## Coaches Call-in

**Every Friday morning join hosts Coach Ron Brown, the FCA staff, and Gordon Thiessen. Topics are prepared in order to address the connection between God and sports by how to do sports God's way.**

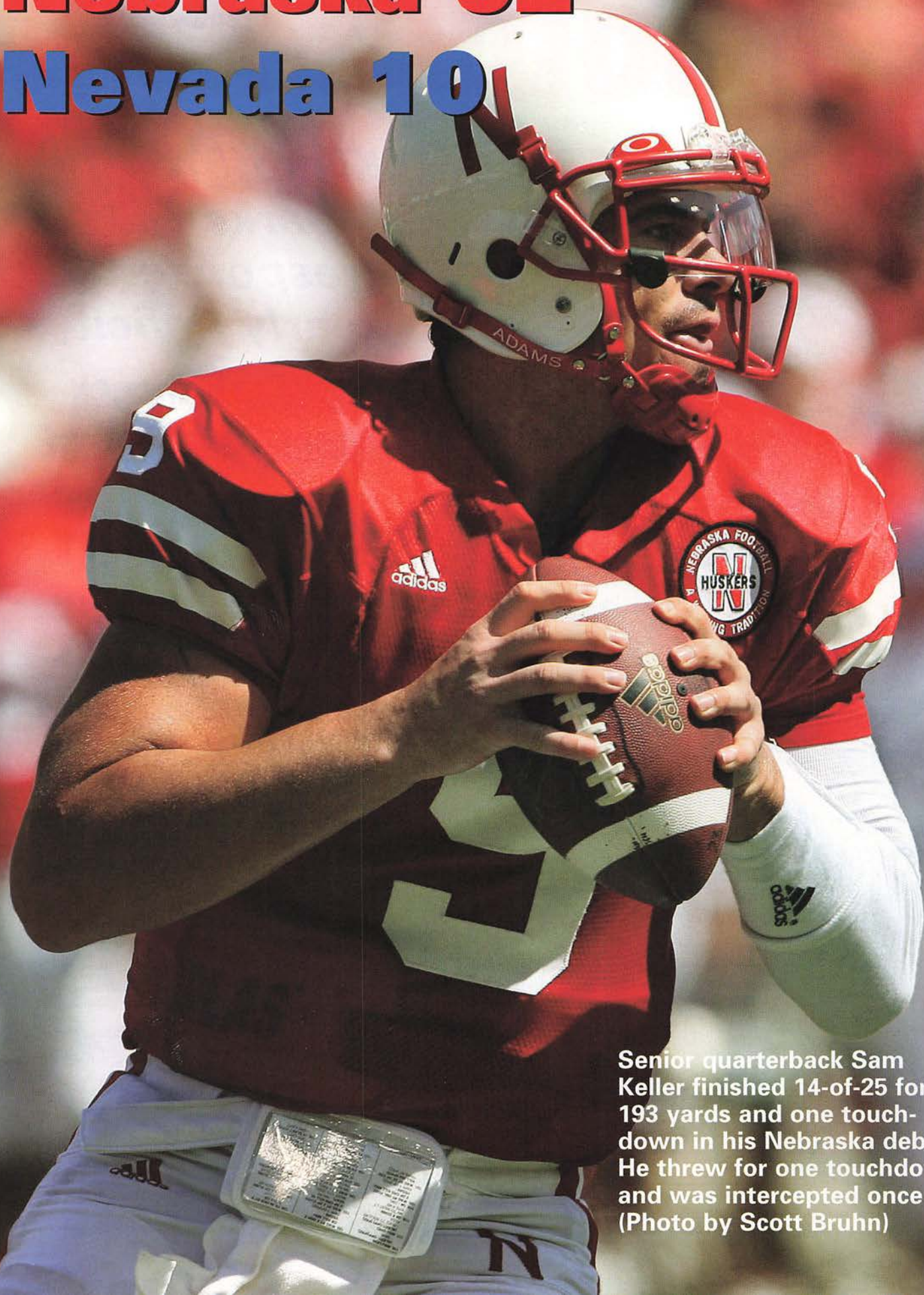
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# Nebraska 52

## Nevada 10



Senior quarterback Sam Keller finished 14-of-25 for 193 yards and one touchdown in his Nebraska debut. He threw for one touchdown and was intercepted once. (Photo by Scott Bruhn)

# Resounding A



Junior Marlon Lucky rushed for three touchdowns, including a 1-yard run that gave Nebraska the lead for good midway through the second quarter. That score was set up by Cortney Grixby's 42-yard kickoff return to the Nevada 39.

## *Kickoff return sparks NU's response to early deficit*

**By Mike Babcock**  
**Photos: Scott Bruhn**

**T**ipped balls happen. Sam Keller took responsibility. But he didn't dwell on it.

"Learn from it and move on," he said.

Early in the second quarter, a Keller pass was deflected by Nevada linebacker Jerome Johnson and intercepted by Jonathon Amaya, who returned the ball 80 yards for a touchdown.

The score produced a 10-7 Wolf Pack lead — a short-lived lead as it turned out.

The Cornhuskers' Cortney Grixby took the ensuing kickoff at his own 19-yard line and returned it to the Nevada 39, from where Nebraska needed only nine plays to regain the lead.

The nine plays all were runs, including six by Marlon Lucky sandwiched around three by freshman Quentin Castille. In fact, Lucky and Castille would combine for five more runs on the next possession before Keller would throw another pass, under pressure and incomplete.

Grixby's return was the spark that ignited a scoring explosion of sorts. Nebraska would score on five more possessions, carrying into the final seconds of the third quarter before giving up the ball on downs. By then, the score had built to 45-10. And the Wolf Pack may have had enough.

"Coach always talks about taking their will

## **TURNING POINT**



Cortney Grixby

# Answer

away," said Carl Nicks, the Cornhuskers' senior offensive left tackle. "After the fourth or fifth touchdown, it was gone."

After the Keller interception, "we gathered the troops up on the sideline and got after it pretty good," coach Bill Callahan said. "I wanted to make sure we answered that pick."

"I thought our guys came back with a good focus and answered the score with a good return, came back with a good series of runs, put together a drive, got back on cycle."

The interception wasn't the reason he stayed with the running game for 14 consecutive plays. It wasn't as if he lost confidence in the passing game. The game plan was to run.



Carl Nicks

"We wanted to establish a physical presence early," said Callahan.

Lucky had a career day, rushing for 233 yards and scoring four touchdowns, the first on a 16-yard pass from Keller. And Castille complemented him, rushing for 78 yards and two touchdowns.

The way Lucky was running, "I thought, 'Oh man, I ain't going to play at all,'" said Castille, who carried 18 times, including at least three as a fullback in the backfield with Lucky.

Castille, who is listed at 6-foot-1 and 245 pounds, worked with the top units during training camp because junior Cody Glenn was sidelined much of the time with a hamstring problem.

"I don't know too many freshmen that weigh as much as him that can run like him. I always called him 'the early achiever,'" Nicks said. "He's doing a real good job."



Quentin Castille

Nicks and the rest of the offensive line did a real good job against Nevada, according to Castille, who called the Cornhusker line the best in the nation.

"Everybody's entitled to his opinion, especially Quentin; he's got so much talent," said Nicks. "That's great. I think we're good. I don't want to jinx us and say we're the best, but we could be the best. We're just taking it week by week, and hopefully everybody will think we're the best."

Offense begins up front, with the line. It and Grixby's return were just what Nebraska needed at that point. "Our plan was to run the ball on that drive, get right back on the board, take it at them," Keller said. "We really wanted to see where our running game could take us on that drive."

It took the Cornhuskers 39 yards, in 4 minutes, 3 seconds.

And it may have taken Nevada out of the game.

"It was just a beautiful thing to see, our offensive line and running backs work," said Keller. ■

## REPORT CARD

### RUSHING OFFENSE

The plan, Bill Callahan said, was to establish a "physical presence." And the Cornhuskers did that in a big way, rushing for 413 yards, the most during his tenure as coach. Even more significant, perhaps, was their 5.9-yards-per-carry average. "The tempo was set by the offensive line and the running backs," said quarterback Sam Keller. "To have that dimension is just fantastic."

★★★★★

### PASSING OFFENSE

The passing game needs to be more consistent, according to Callahan. Even though Keller's debut at Nebraska was marred by an interception, which was returned for a touchdown, "I think overall it was a good start for him, a real solid start for him," Callahan said. "I think a couple of balls were dropped that could have potentially been big plays for him as well." As it was Keller completed 14-of-25 passes for 193 yards and a touchdown. "I think my performance was OK," said Keller. ★★☆☆☆

### RUSHING DEFENSE

Nevada couldn't get anything going on the ground, or in the air, for that matter. Concerns about the Cornhuskers' inexperienced defensive front were alleviated, to some extent, at least on this particular afternoon. More than half of Nevada's 77 net rushing yards came on three plays. ★★★★★

### PASSING DEFENSE

The Wolf Pack's "pistol" offense misfired through the air as well. Though the Blackshirts managed only one sack — Steve Octavien and Barry Turner combined on it — they were consistently in the Nevada backfield, harassing the quarterback. Tackle Kevin Dixon batted and intercepted a pass and the Blackshirts could have had a least one more interception. ★★★★★

### SPECIAL TEAMS

Cortney Grixby's 42-yard kickoff return was a highlight, of course, as was freshman Adi Kunalic's kickoffs and 46-yard field goal in the third quarter. "I thought our special teams play was solid," Callahan said. "Our return game looks better than it did a year ago."

★★★★★

## NUMBERS

# 70

Shades of another time and place. Nebraska used 70 players, including seven true freshmen: I-backs Quentin Castille and Roy Helu, wide receiver Niles Paul, linebackers Thomas Grove and Blake Lawrence, cornerback Anthony Blue and place-kicker Adi Kunalic. In addition, four first-year junior college transfers saw action: safety Larry Asante, cornerback Armando Murillo and defensive linemen Kevin Dixon and Shukree Barfield, who were teammates at Garden City (Kan.) Community College.

# NEBRASKA-NEVADA NOTES

## GOOD LORD

Junior I-back Marlon Lucky's 233 yards rushing were the most by a Cornhusker since 2002, when quarterback Jammal Lord ran for 234 yards against Texas. Lucky's total also was 1 yard short of the top 10 on Nebraska's single-game rushing list. Lucky is the 15th Cornhusker to rush for 200 or more yards. His total was the most-ever by Nebraska rusher in a season-opening game.

## RIDING THE WAVE

This seems appropriate for someone from North Hollywood, Calif. Lucky's rushing success was due, in part, to his ability to "ride the wave," coach Bill Callahan said. "As you kind of work back in the cut-up lanes, we call that the 'wave.' If you can catch that wave and ride it . . ."

## EVERYBODY'S IN

Lucky was complemented by four other running backs, junior Cody Glenn, sophomore Major Culbert and true freshmen Quentin Castille and Roy Helu. The only I-back on the roster who didn't play was freshman Marcus Mendoza, who apparently will redshirt barring a rash of injuries.

Castille was the first I-back off the bench. Culbert, a converted defensive back, scored the final touchdown on a nifty 17-yard run midway through the fourth quarter. Glenn, who missed much of training camp because of a hamstring injury, carried eight times for 29 yards.

## OPTION FOOTBALL

Wait a minute. Back-up quarterback Joe Ganz ran a couple of option plays, gaining 15 yards on two carries. He also completed his only pass, good for a 19-yard gain.

## TIME PROBLEMS

NCAA rules related to the starting of the 25-second clock were cause for some consternation. "I don't know if you felt that upstairs (in the pressbox) at all, but it was a little bit different the way the new rule kicked in," said Callahan. "It was a very fast clock. It just seemed like forever, the rhythm of the game. I don't know if you felt that, but I certainly did as a play-caller. Those two delays (delay-of-game penalties) were on me. They weren't Sam's (Keller) fault. We were trying to do a couple of things with our shift-movement game, and we got stuck a couple of times because of the clock. Evidently, they're going to punch that clock in 3 seconds or 4 seconds after each play. That has really sped up the clock."

## CONSISTENTLY CATCHING

Senior wide receiver Terrence Nunn caught two passes for a team-high 36 yards. He has caught at least one pass in 28 consecutive games. The streak began during his freshman season and is the second longest in Cornhusker history. Nunn's 103 career receptions also rank second.

## NO STOPPING ON RED

The Cornhuskers were efficient in the red zone, scoring on 7-of-8 trips into the red zone. The only time they didn't come away with points was as time ran out, when Callahan had Ganz drop back and take a knee on third-and-goal from the Nevada 1-yard line. Nebraska also dominated time of possession by two-to-one — specifically 40:38 to 19:22.

## NO SHUTOUTS

Nevada has never been shutout playing in Division I-A, now called the Football Bowl Division. The Wolf Pack was last blanked on Sept. 27, 1980, a streak of 318 games, the nation's longest. Weber State shut out the Wolf Pack that day, 10-0. That also is the only shutout loss by a Nevada team under Hall of Fame coach Chris Ault — who is in his third tenure at the school in Reno.

Callahan regularly referred to Nevada as "Reno" leading up to the game.

## CREDIT WHERE DUE

Ault was impressed with Nebraska's offensive line. "There's no question their offensive front dominated our defensive front, and we couldn't find a way to get up," he said.

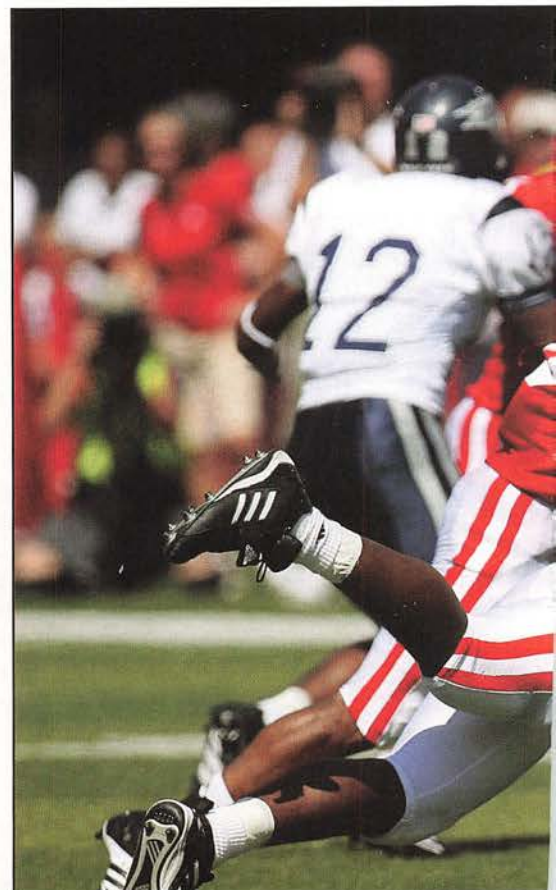
He also complimented the Cornhusker defense. "They're a multiple-package defense, so they can keep you off-balance. They did a nice job of blitzing," he said. "They're a real good defense, and they always have been, so that didn't shock us. There was nothing they did today that we didn't expect."

## LARGEST EVER

The sellout crowd of 84,078 at Memorial Stadium — consecutive sellout No. 283 — was the largest ever to watch a Nevada. The Wolf Pack's average home attendance in 2006 was just under 17,000. ■

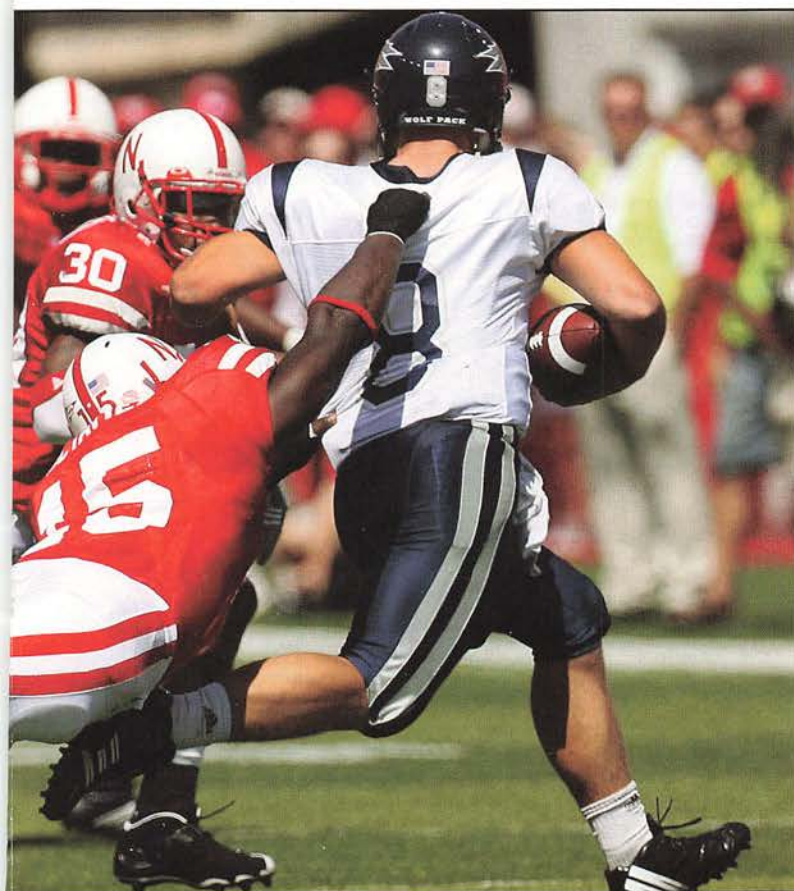


The Nebraska defense limited Nevada to a net of 77 yards. Sievers (88) combine to stop Nevada's Brandon Fragger down Wolf Pack quarterback Nick Graziano (8).





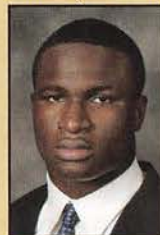
is rushing. Above, Nose tackle Ndamukong Suh (93) and defensive end Clayton (24). Below, linebacker Steve Octavien (15) and safety Tierre Green (30) chase



# Who Stood Out?

## OFFENSE

Marlon Lucky wasn't going to pick out a favorite play against Nevada. He smiled. Well, if he were to pick one it would probably be the run that was nullified by a block-in-the-back penalty on his first carry of the third quarter — Nebraska's first play from scrimmage in the second half, in fact.



Marlon Lucky

"Those things happen," Lucky said with a laugh.

If not for the penalty, Lucky would have run 65 yards for a touchdown. As it was, he was credited with a 23-yard gain, to boost him over 100 yards rushing. And he would finish off the seven-play, 65-yard drive with a 17-yard run for the third of four touchdowns he would score.

He finished with 233 rushing yards on 30 carries and caught three passes for 33 yards and the first of the touchdowns.

## DEFENSE

Steve Octavien has been hampered by injuries during his two seasons at Nebraska. His first season, he was sidelined by a broken leg, suffered early in the second quarter of the opener against Maine, while last season he missed five games. But he came through the Nevada game unscathed. "I'm back to my normal self," he said after making a team-high five tackles, including 1.5 for losses and a half sack.



Steve Octavien

For him, personally, if he remains healthy, "the sky's the limit," the senior linebacker said. But "I'm not going for stats or anything like that. Hopefully I glorified God in the way I played."

## SPECIAL TEAMS

One of the biggest ovations from Memorial Stadium's consecutive sellout No. 283 came in the second quarter when freshman Adi Kunalic drove his second kickoff out of the north end zone. Kunalic finished the game with 6-of-9 touchbacks on kickoffs, despite a rules change that has moved kickoffs back from the 35-yard line to the 30. The Cornhuskers had only 12 touchbacks all of last season.



Adi Kunalic

Kunalic also was successful on his only field goal attempt, a 46-yarder. "He just jumped out on the field, came up to the tee box and knocked it through the pipes," coach Bill Callahan said.

"I thought it was outstanding."

# INJURY REPORT

Junior defensive tackle Ty Steinkuhler was helped from the field with 11:46 remaining in the first quarter after suffering a knee injury. Coach Bill Callahan said the extent of the injury wouldn't be known for a day or two, until the swelling went down.

# GAME STATS

## SCORING

Sept. 1, 2007  
Memorial Stadium Lincoln, Neb.  
Attendance 84,078

	1	2	3	4	F
Nevada	0	10	0	0	10
Nebraska	7	14	24	7	52

### First Quarter

	NEV	NU
NU Lucky Pass from Keller 16-yards (Henery Kick) 04:16 Drive: 12 plays 94 yds 6:22	0	7

### Second Quarter

NEV Jaekle 36-yard Field Goal 13:58 Drive: 10 plays 37 yds 3:09	3	7
--	---	---

NEV Amaya TD INT 80-yards (Jaekle Kick) 10:53	10	7
--	----	---

NU Lucky 1-yard Run (Henery Kick) 06:40 Drive: 9 plays 39 yds 4:03	10	14
--	----	----

NU Castille 1-yard Run (Henery Kick) 02:22 Drive: 9 plays 54 yds 3:08	10	21
---	----	----

### Third Quarter

NU Lucky 17-yard Run (Henery Kick) 11:30 Drive: 7 plays 65 yds 3:01	10	28
---	----	----

NU Lucky 3-yard Run (Kunalic Kick) 08:59 Drive: 5 plays 54 yds 1:35	10	35
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NU Kunalic 46-yard Field Goal 04:45 Drive: 7 plays 28 yds 2:46	10	38
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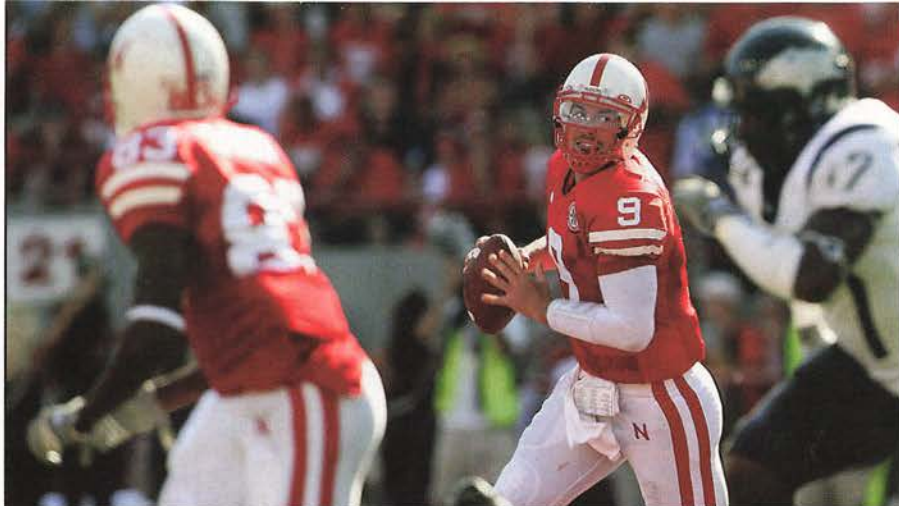
NU Castille 2-yard Run (Henery Kick) 00:50 Drive: 6 plays 87 yds 1:16	10	45
---	----	----

### Fourth Quarter

NU Culbert 17-yard Run (Henery Kick) 08:31 Drive: 9 plays 84 yds 3:25	10	52
---	----	----

## TEAM STATS

	NEV	NU
<b>Total First Downs</b>	9	35
Rushing	3	20
Passing	5	12
Penalty	1	3
<b>Rushing Attempts</b>	24	70
<b>Yards Gained Rushing</b>	95	425
<b>Yards Lost Rushing</b>	18	12
<b>Net Yards Rushing</b>	77	413
<b>Net Yards Passing</b>	108	212
Passes Attempted	27	26
Passes Completed	9	15
Had Intercepted	1	1
Percent Completion	33.3%	57.7%
Yards per Attempt	4.0	8.2
Yards per Completion	12.0	14.1
<b>Total Offensive Plays</b>	51	96
<b>Total Net Yards</b>	185	625
Avg. Gain Per Play	3.6	6.5
<b>Fumbles: No-Lost</b>	1-0	0-0
<b>Penalties: No-Yards</b>	12-86	8-65
<b>Punts: No-Yards</b>	10-401	2-89
Avg. Per Punt	40.1	44.5
Avg. Net Punt	37.3	37.0
<b>Punt Returns: No-Yards</b>	2-15	5-28
<b>Kickoff Returns: No-Yards</b>	3-69	3-73
<b>Interception Returns: No-Yards</b>	1-80	1-0
<b>Fumble Returns: No-Yards</b>	0-0	0-0
<b>Miscellaneous Yards</b>	0	0
<b>Possession Time</b>	19:22	40:38
<b>Third-Down Conversions</b>	1-13	7-15
Percentage	7.7%	46.7%
<b>Fourth-Down Conversions</b>	1-1	1-2
Percentage	100.0%	50.0%
<b>Sacks By: No-Yards</b>	0-0	1-9



Nebraska quarterback Sam Keller (9) rolls out, looking for wide receiver Terrence Nunn (83).

## INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

### NEVADA

	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Graziano	6	29	0	29	4.8	0	13
Taua	3	24	0	24	8.0	0	12
Fragger	7	17	1	16	2.3	0	7
Rosenblum	1	16	0	16	16.0	0	16
Randall	2	6	0	6	3.0	0	4
Lippincott	4	3	8	-5	-1.2	0	3
Samples	1	0	9	-9	-9.0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>

	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Graziano	24	8	33.3	1	109	0	21
Samples	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Kaepernick	3	1	33.3	0	-1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
McCoy	2	37	0	21
Mitchell	2	34	0	19
Sammons	1	19	0	19
King Jr.	2	11	0	12
Lippincott	1	8	0	8
Wellington	1	-1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
King Jr.	1	8	0	8
Rosenblum	1	7	0	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Wellington	3	69	0	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>

	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In	20
Whited	10	40.1	58	0	0	2	1	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>40.1</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Jaekle	1	1	36	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>0</b>

	Solo	Asst	Tot	TFL	Sack	PD	FF	FR
Mauga	5	8	13	1.5-3	0-0	0	0	0
Amaya	6	6	12	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Porter	4	6	10	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Jackson	3	6	9	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Johnson	1	6	7	0.5-3	0-0	1	0	0
Pratt	6	1	7	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Amaya	1	80	1	80
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>80</b>

### NEBRASKA

	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Lucky	30	235	2	233	7.8	3	31
Castille	18	78	0	78	4.3	2	8
Culbert	5	35	0	35	7.0	1	17
Glenn	8	36	7	29	3.6	0	20
Helu	6	26	0	26	4.3	0	13
Ganz	2	15	0	15	7.5	0	9
TEAM	1	0	3	-3	-3.0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>31</b>

	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Keller	25	14	56.0	1	193	1	25
Ganz	1	1	100.0	0	19	0	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>57.7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>25</b>

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Nunn	2	36	0	24
Lucky	3	33	1	16
Swift	2	28	0	21
McNeill	1	25	0	25
Hardy	1	24	0	24
Erickson	1	19	0	19
Sand	1	15	0	15
Young	1	14	0	14
Peterson	1	8	0	8
Paul	1	6	0	6
Brooks	1	4	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>25</b>

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Jones	1	24	0	24
Grixby	3	4	0	6
Nunn	1	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Grixby	2	66	0	42
Brandenburgh	1	7	0	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42</b>

	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In	20
Titchener	2	44.5	45	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Kunalic	1	1	46	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>

	Solo	Asst	Tot	TFL	Sack	PD	FF	FR
Octavien	3	2	5	1.5-10	0.5-4	0	0	0
Asante	0	4	4	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
McKeon	3	1	4	1-2	0-0	1	0	0
Murillo	1	3	4	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Grixby	2	1	3	1-1	0-0	0	0	0
Brandenburgh	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Dillard	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Potter	2	0	2	1-1	0-0	0	0	0
Suh	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Turner	1	1	2	0.5-5	0-0	0	0	0
Wilson	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Allen	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Barfield	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Blue	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Bowman	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Dixon	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Eisenhart	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Green	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
O'Hanlon	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Paul	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Ruud	1	0	1	1-1	0-0	0	0	0
Sievers	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Sullivan	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Wortman	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Jones	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Dixon	1	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

# SCOUTING REPORT

## 2007 SCHEDULE

- 1 Sept. 1 Nevada (0-1), W 52-10 1-0
- 2 Sept. 8 @Wake Forest (0-1), 11 a.m., ESPN
- 3 Sept. 15 USC (1-0), 7 p.m., ABC
- 4 Sept. 22 Ball State (0-1), TBA
- 5 Sept. 29 Iowa State (0-1), TBA
- 6 Oct. 6 @Missouri (1-0), TBA
- 7 Oct. 13 Oklahoma St. (0-1), TBA  
(Homecoming)
- 8 Oct. 20 Texas A&M (1-0), TBA
- 9 Oct. 27 @Texas (1-0), TBA
- 10 Nov. 3 @Kansas (1-0), TBA
- 11 Nov. 10 Kansas State (0-1), TBA
- 12 Nov. 23 @Colorado (1-0), 11 a.m., ABC
- Dec. 1 Big 12 Championship  
at San Antonio, Texas, 7 p.m., ABC

### BIG 12 AT A GLANCE

#### Thursday, Aug. 30

Kent State 23, Iowa State 14

#### Saturday, Sept. 1

Nebraska 52, Nevada 10  
Missouri 40, Illinois 34  
TCU 27, Baylor 0  
Georgia 35, Oklahoma State 14  
Texas A&M 38, Montana State 7  
Oklahoma 79, North Texas 10  
Auburn 23, Kansas State 13  
Texas 21, Arkansas State 13  
Kansas 52, Central Michigan 7  
Colorado 31, Colorado State 28, ot

#### Monday, Sept. 3

Texas Tech at SMU

#### Saturday, Sept. 8

Miami (Fla.) at Oklahoma  
Nebraska at Wake Forest  
Fresno State at Texas A&M  
TCU at Texas  
UTEP at Texas Tech  
Colorado at Arizona State  
Florida Atlantic at Oklahoma State  
Missouri at Mississippi  
Northern Iowa at Iowa State  
Rice at Baylor  
San Jose State at Kansas State  
Southeastern Louisiana at Kansas

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## GAME 2

### At Wake Forest Sept. 8

**Location:** Winston-Salem, N.C.

**Enrollment:** 4,321

**2007 record:** 0-1

**Coach:** Jim Grobe, 13th year

**Series:** Nebraska leads 2-0



**11 a.m., ESPN**

**Groves Stad., Winston-Salem, N.C.**

### Player to Watch

Senior wide receiver Kenneth



Moore tied the Wake Forest single-game record with 15 receptions against Boston College. Moore fell one catch shy of the ACC record of 16.

In 2006, he was the team's third-leading rusher with 507 yards on 105 carries and caught 32 passes for 314 yards.

### Quick Facts

**Wake Forest returned 15 starters** from last year's 11-3 team that won the ACC Atlantic Division and defeated Georgia Tech in the conference title game. The Demon Deacons fell 24-13 to Louisville in the Orange Bowl.

**The defending ACC champion Demon Deacons** lost their 2007 opener 38-28 at Boston College.

**Sophomore quarterback Riley Skinner** completed 28-of-37 passes for 236 yards and a touchdown, but he was picked off three times — twice in the end zone. Skinner reportedly separated his shoulder after scrambling late in the third quarter and returned for just one play. Skinner was relieved by sophomore Brett Hodges, who was 17-for-23 with one touchdown and an interception in the final minute that sealed the victory for BC.

## ON DECK

### Southern California Sept. 15

**Location:** Los Angeles, Calif.

**Enrollment:** 33,000

**2007 record:** 1-0

**Coach:** Pete Carroll, 7th year

**Series:** USC leads 2-0-1

**7 p.m., ABC**

**Memorial Stadium, Lincoln, Neb.**



## TENTATIVE 2-DEEPS

### NEBRASKA OFFENSE

WR	87	Nate Swift**	6-2	200	Jr.
	17	Todd Peterson**	6-4	210	Jr.
LT	77	Carl Nicks*	6-5	330	Sr.
	65	Mike Smith	6-6	285	RFr.
LG	62	Andy Christensen*	6-3	300	Jr.
	69	Jordan Picou	6-2	305	Sr.
C	59	Brett Byford*	6-3	300	Sr.
	67	Jacob Hickman*	6-4	285	So.
RG	70	Matt Slauson**	6-5	335	Jr.
	61	Mike Huff**	6-4	300	Jr.
RT	76	Lydon Murtha**	6-7	305	Jr.
	73	D.J. Jones	6-5	310	RFr.
HB	85	J.B. Phillips***	6-3	245	Sr.
	81	Josh Mueller***	6-5	265	Sr.
WR	83	Terrence Nunn**	6-0	190	Sr.
	7	Frantz Hardy**	6-1	190	Sr.
QB	9	Sam Keller	6-4	230	Sr.
	12	Joe Ganz*	6-1	200	Jr.
FB	48	Andy Sand	6-2	230	Sr.
	36	Thomas Lawson*	6-0	240	Jr.
IB	5	Marlon Lucky**	6-0	210	Jr.
	34	Cody Glenn**	6-0	230	Jr.
PK	20	Adi Kunalic	6-0	175	Fr.

### NEBRASKA DEFENSE

DE	99	Barry Turner**	6-3	270	Jr.
	88	Clayton Sievers**	6-4	245	Jr.
NT	93	Ndamukong Suh*	6-4	305	So.
	56	Shukree Barfield	6-4	310	Jr.
DT	43	Ty Steinkuhler**	6-3	285	Jr.
	97	Kevin Dixon	6-3	295	Jr.
DE	98	Zach Potter**	6-7	280	Jr.
	95	Pierre Allen	6-5	265	RFr.
SLB	51	Bo Ruud***	6-3	235	Sr.
	40	Lance Brandenburg***	6-1	230	Sr.
MLB	13	Corey McKeon**	6-1	225	Sr.
	52	Phillip Dillard*	6-1	250	So.
WLB	15	Steve Octavien*	6-0	240	Sr.
	40	Lance Brandenburg***	6-1	230	Sr.
LCB	5	Armando Murillo	6-0	195	Jr.
	25	Andre Jones*	6-0	190	Sr.
FS	30	Tierre Green***	6-1	200	Sr.
	3	Rickey Thenarse*	6-0	190	So.
SS	4	Larry Asarte	6-1	210	So.
	9	Bryan Wilson*	6-1	205	Sr.
RCB	2	Cortney Grixby***	5-9	170	Sr.
	1	Zack Bowman*	6-2	200	Sr.
P	97	Dan Titchener*	6-0	200	Jr.

### WAKE FOREST OFFENSE

WR	14	Kevin Marion	5-10	168	Sr.
	4	Demir Boldin	5-11	220	Jr.
LT	78	Louis Frazier	6-4	315	Sr.
	76	Joe Birdsong	6-4	290	So.
LG	79	Matthew Brim	6-4	294	Sr.
	61	Barrett McMillin	6-3	288	So.
C	74	Steve Justice	6-4	284	Sr.
	67	Trey Bailey	6-2	289	So.
RG	70	Chris DeGeare	6-4	362	Jr.
	57	Russell Nenon	6-4	304	RFr.
RT	64	Jeff Griffin	6-3	298	So.
	77	Boomer Peterson	6-5	303	So.
TE	84	Zac Selmon	6-5	250	Sr.
	85	Ben Wooster	6-5	226	So.
WR	21	Kenneth Moore	6-0	204	Sr.
	88	Chip Brinkman	6-1	210	Jr.
QB	11	Riley Skinner	6-1	200	So.
	6	Brett Hodges	6-1	180	So.
FB	35	Rich Belton	6-1	259	Jr.
	48	Anthony Williams	5-11	203	So.
TB	23	Kevin Harris	6-1	230	So.
	3	Micah Andrews	5-10	212	Sr.
PK	38	Sam Swank	6-2	206	So.

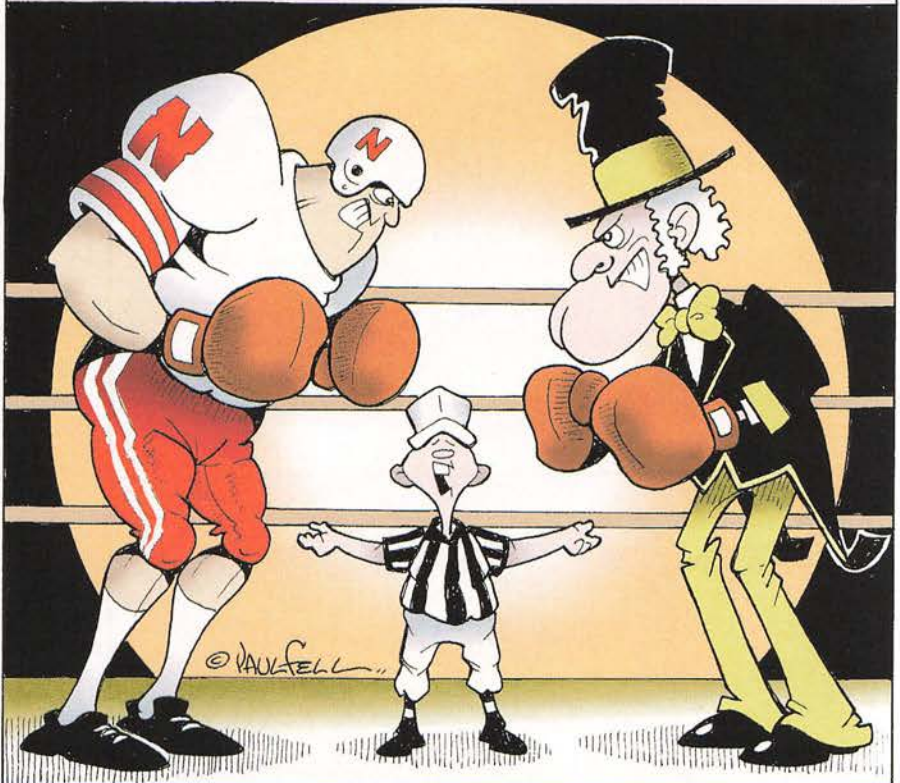
### WAKE FOREST DEFENSE

DE	42	Matt Robinson	6-2	248	Sr.
	99	Michael Lockett	6-0	274	So.
NG	96	Boo Robinson	6-2	326	So.
	58	Michael Carter	6-3	317	RFr.
DT	95	Zach Stukes	6-2	274	Sr.
	51	John Russell	6-3	250	So.
DE	98	Jeremy Thompson	6-5	264	Sr.
	93	Anthony Davis	6-5	251	Jr.
SAM	59	Aaron Curry	6-3	240	Jr.
	52	Dominique Midgett	6-2	242	So.
MLB	43	Stanley Arnoux	6-1	245	Jr.
	46	Matt Woodlief	5-11	254	RFr.
OLB	39	Chantz McClinton	5-10	225	Jr.
	56	Hunter Haynes	6-2	224	RFr.
CB	2	Alphonso Smith	5-9	191	Jr.
	17	Brandon Ghee	6-0	182	So.
SS	10	Kevin Patterson	5-10	185	Jr.
	32	Aaron Mason	5-9	199	Sr.
FS	9	Chip Vaughn	6-2	220	Jr.
	7	Alex Frye	6-3	190	RFr.
CB	29	Kerry Major	5-11	179	Jr.
	24	Channing Schofield	5-11	193	So.
P	38	Sam Swank	6-2	206	So.

## THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION

# NEBRASKA vs.

# WAKE FOREST



SEPTEMBER 8, 2007

THIS VISIT TO DEMON DEACON TERRITORY COULD TURN INTO A REAL BRAWL AS HUSKERS AND WAKE FOREST BOTH EXPECT BREAKOUT SEASONS!

## Picks

Sept. 1



**Brian Hill**  
Editor



**Mike Bahcock**  
Cont. Editor



**Terry Douglass**  
G.I. Independent



**Sean Callahan**  
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**John Bishop**  
KLIN Radio-Lincoln  
(Guest)

**Nebraska**  
@Wake Forest

Nebraska 34,  
Wake Forest 16

Nebraska 27,  
Wake Forest 24

Nebraska 24,  
Wake Forest 20

Nebraska 38,  
Wake Forest 24

Nebraska 27,  
Wake Forest 19

**Miami**  
@Oklahoma

Oklahoma 30,  
Miami 17

Oklahoma 27,  
Miami 17

Oklahoma 17,  
Miami 9

Oklahoma 31,  
Miami 20

Oklahoma 28,  
Miami 14

**TCU**  
@Texas

Texas 27,  
TCU 24

Texas 31,  
TCU 25

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TCU 13

Texas 24,  
TCU 13

Texas 34,  
TCU 17

**Virginia Tech**  
@LSU

LSU 30,  
Va. Tech 24

LSU 17,  
Va. Tech 16

LSU 14,  
Va. Tech 7

LSU 38,  
Va. Tech 35

LSU 29,  
Va. Tech 10

**Last Week**  
**Season**

**3-1**  
**3-1**

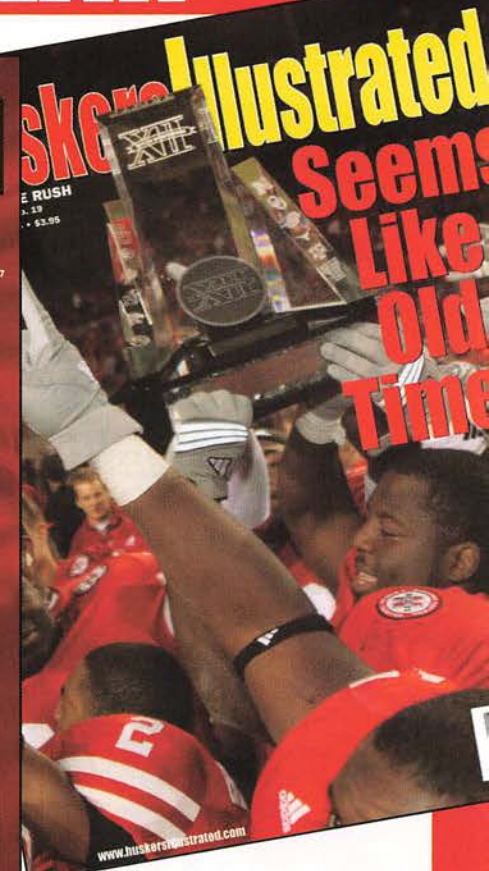
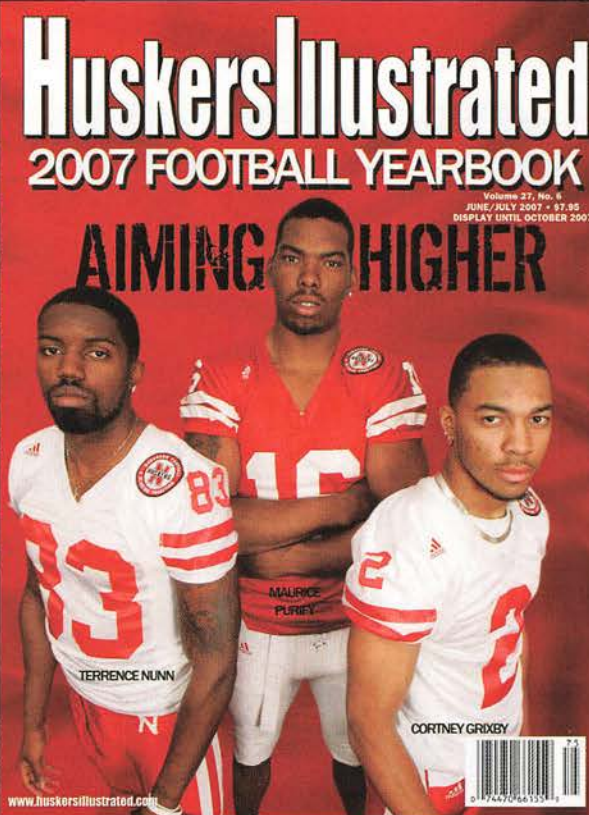
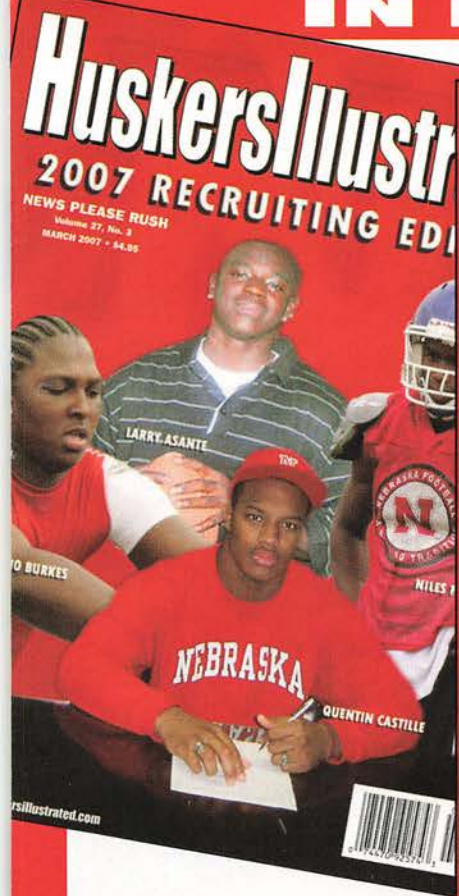
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**4-0**  
**4-0**

**3-1**  
**3-1**

**3-1**  
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***... All The Time***

# Successf

***NU senior  
Houghtelling  
happy to be  
back in the  
middle of it all***

**By Bob Hamar**

**C**hristina Houghtelling was just an ordinary college student last fall. Well, at least as ordinary as the 2005 American Volleyball Coaches Association player of the year can be.

Houghtelling didn't have a lot to do in the fall of 2006 except go to classes, work out and watch her Nebraska teammates win the school's third national championship and first since 2000.

Houghtelling was supposed to be a big part of that run. She was still there rooting her teammates on from the sidelines, but the former Cambridge (Neb.) High School standout was supposed to be right in the middle of it all, slamming down kills and blocking balls at the net from her position at outside hitter for the No. 1 team in the nation.

But a shoulder injury in the summer of 2006 and the following surgery ended her season before it had started. So Houghtelling redshirted, rehabbed and watched her teammates win a national title.

It wasn't easy to stand and watch. Houghtelling has never been very good at watching. But it wasn't a totally wasted year. She learned a lot about herself, a lot about the game of volleyball and a lot about patience.

"I'm not always the most patient



After a year on the sidelines, senior outside hitter Christina Houghtelling (3) was back with her teammates for the Red-White scrimmage Aug. 18.

person when it comes to sports," Houghtelling said. "I usually just go work hard for what I want, and then I get it done. I wasn't able to do that last year.

"So I learned a lot about patience, giving and being selfless. It was mentally, emotionally and physically challenging, but I learned that I have more confidence and I'm a lot stronger than I ever thought I was."

Houghtelling had a successful return to the court when she finished with eight kills and four blocks in a sweep of Tennessee to open the season. Every time Houghtelling did anything early in that match, she received a loud ovation. When she

went back to serve for the first time, there it was again . . . another loud cheer.

"I just didn't know what they were clapping for," Houghtelling said. "I thought someone was throwing something in the crowd. But just going back to serve, I knew I had to stick it."

Nebraska coach John Cook thought Houghtelling performed well in her first real action since December of 2005. Houghtelling played well in Nebraska's Red-White scrimmage Aug. 18 with nine kills and a match-high 16 digs, but a scrimmage isn't the same as a match.

The Red-White scrimmage was a

# ul Return



small step in the right direction. Cook said Houghtelling's performance against Tennessee was a huge step toward getting back to where she wants to be.

"When you're in front of 10,000 people and on national TV, that's a big step for Chris to make and work through that barrier," Cook said. "I thought as the match went on, she continued to do things better and better."

Houghtelling took another step in Nebraska's 3-1 win over then No. 5 UCLA in the second match of the season. Her 10 kills and .158 hitting percentage were far from spectacular, but she did play the whole way in a match that lasted 2 hours and 11 minutes.

"It was great to see Houghtelling make some huge plays at the end of game four," Cook said. "That was a long, hard match for somebody who hasn't played for a year."

Although Houghtelling may not yet be back to her previous level of play, she still brings an enthusiasm to the court that can be contagious.

"Chris has a way on the court of bringing some good energy or momentum or whatever you want to call it," Cook said. "She does a great job on the court helping us compete and enjoy it. That was something that was really great to see."

Houghtelling also brings an enthusiasm to her job as a student teacher for second graders this fall. At some point in the future, Houghtelling plans to teach and coach.

Houghtelling said she enjoys teaching and the interaction with the youngsters.

"It's a great feeling to know they're looking up to you and you're playing a role in their lives," Houghtelling said. "There are a lot of kids always around the Coliseum. The other day there was a whole group, I think they were probably second graders, and this little girl is like, 'Oh my gosh, you're tall.'"

"Just little things like that. They say, 'You're really tall. How tall are you?' I get that question all the time."

But Houghtelling has some unfinished business left to attend to before she becomes a full-time teacher and coach. Standing and watching her teammates win a national title was exciting, but now she wants to be on the court to help the Huskers to the school's fourth national title.

Just don't say "repeating" or "defending" to Houghtelling.

"We don't approach it as we're defending or repeating," Houghtelling said. "We approach it as it's a new year. Great things happened last year, but we can't dwell on

them. We have to let it go. We're restarting our new year. Our focus is just one day at a time, one game at a time." ■

**Bob Hamar** covers the Nebraska volleyball team for the *Grand Island (Neb.) Independent*. He can be reached at [bob.hamar@theindependent.com](mailto:bob.hamar@theindependent.com)

## RESULTS, SCHEDULE

### AVCA Showcase At Qwest Center Omaha

Aug. 24	vs. Tennessee	W, 3-0
Aug. 25	vs. UCLA	W, 3-1

### Holiday Inn Classic

#### NU Coliseum/Qwest Center Omaha

Aug. 31	vs. Creighton (NU)	7 p.m.
Sept. 2	vs. Penn St. (Omaha)	3 p.m.
Sept. 3	vs. Cal Poly (NU)	5 p.m.

### Ameritas Players Challenge NU Coliseum

Sept. 7	vs. Duke	7 p.m.
Sept. 8	vs. New Mexico St. or Louisville	4:30/ 7 p.m.

(Home matches at NU Coliseum, unless noted)

Sept. 12	Texas	7 p.m.
Sept. 15	@Texas Tech	TBA
Sept. 22	Texas A&M	TBA
Sept. 26	@Kansas	7 p.m.
Sept. 29	Baylor	TBA
Oct. 3	Kansas State	7 p.m.
Oct. 6	@Colorado	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 10	Iowa State	7 p.m.
Oct. 13	@Oklahoma	TBA
Oct. 17	@Missouri	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 20	Kansas	TBA
Oct. 21	Hawaii (Devaney)	5 p.m.
Oct. 24	@Texas	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 31	Missouri	7 p.m.
Nov. 3	@Kansas State	7 p.m.
Nov. 7	Colorado	7 p.m.
Nov. 11	@Iowa State	3 p.m.
Nov. 14	@Texas A&M	6:30 p.m.
Nov. 17	Oklahoma	7 p.m.
Nov. 21	@Baylor	6:30 p.m.
Nov. 24	Texas Tech	7 p.m.

### Nov. 29-Dec. 2 NCAA First/Second Rounds At Campus Sites

### Dec. 7-8 NCAA Regionals At Campus Sites

### Dec 13-15 NCAA Final Four At Sacramento, Calif.

# Competition Inevitable for NU's Peetz

*Soccer-playing  
sisters constantly  
pushed each other*

**BY KATELYN KERKHOVE**

**A**s his daughters grew up in Lincoln, Neb., Jeff Peetz was hoping at least one of the four would pursue basketball.

He made sure each participated in many sports growing up, but for some reason, all were drawn to the soccer field.

Left with only one obvious choice, Jeff chose to study the game and coach his two sets of twins.

Now, of the four Peetz sisters, three — seniors Allie and Katy and sophomore Anne — chose to continue their athletic careers at Creighton University in Omaha. Carly, also a sophomore, was the only Peetz to decide to opt for the Cornhuskers.

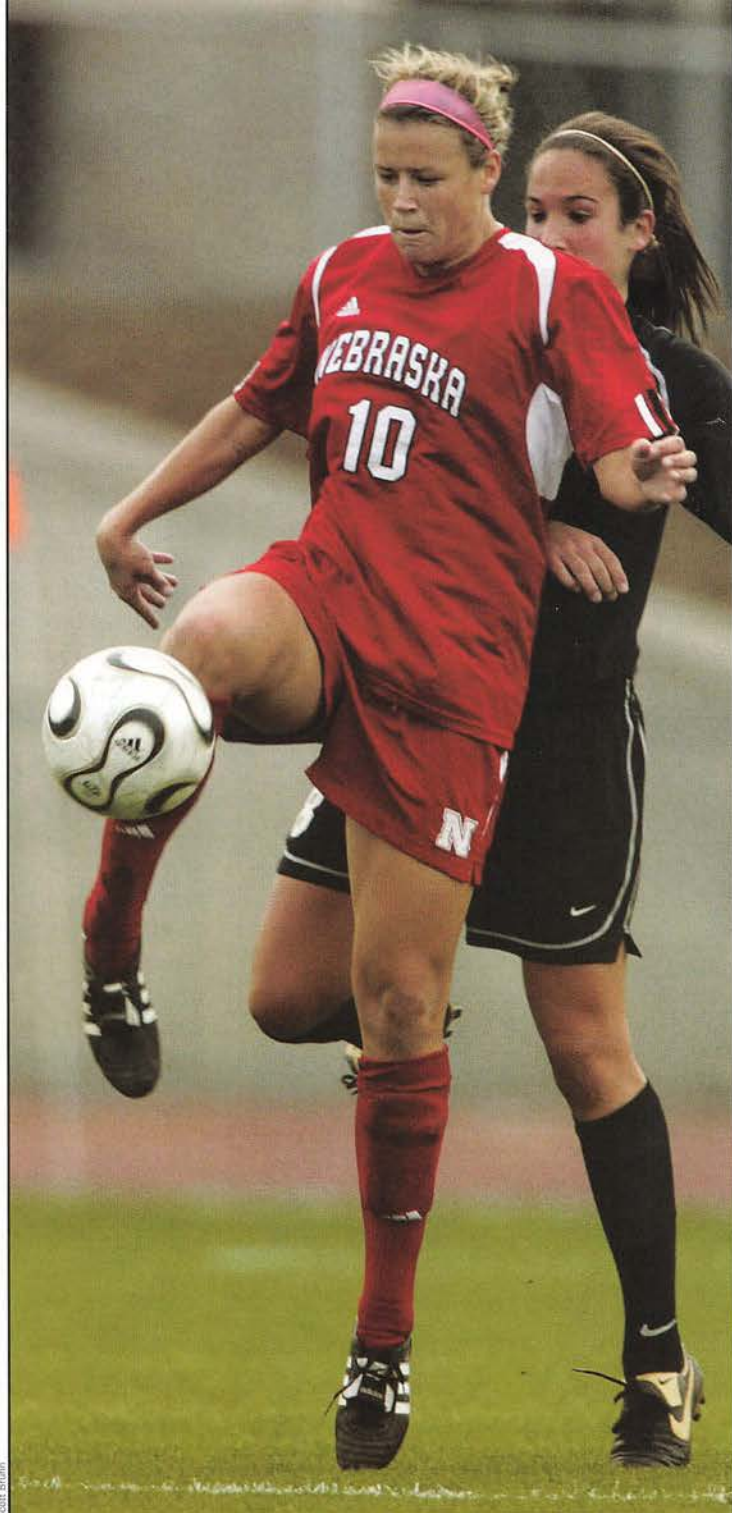
"I just couldn't pass up an opportunity to play with a team like Nebraska," she said. "I've always had my heart set on it."

Growing up in a house of sisters, competition was inevitable.

The four didn't necessarily play soccer in the front yard every evening, but when they donned the same jersey for Pius X High School, they constantly pushed each other, Carly said.

However, none of them competed against each other for playing time, since all focused on different positions. Carly's older sisters had to play separate spots because they thought identically when it came to their next move and always ended up in the same position.

"When we did (play) in high school together, all of us were so competitive against each other," Carly said. "But it was really a lot of fun because we had a really good feel-



**Carly Peetz started all 20 games last season as a freshman and led the Huskers in minutes played.**

ing of how each other played, a lot of good chemistry."

Carly enjoyed playing at mid-center field or forward in high school. But during her time at Nebraska, she has become a solid defender.

In her first season as a Husker, Carly played more minutes than any other Husker and started all 20 games as either a defender or forward.

"I really do like (playing defender)," Carly said. "It was really tough at first because it is a completely different mentality and style of play, but after I started to understand it, I liked it better. I got to play next to all these phenomenal defenders that were so helpful and were so good, and I learned so much."

But with time on both sides of the ball, Carly scored several goals, her first against Iowa State on Sept. 24.

With her success last year and the nature of her defensive position, Carly is in an obvious leadership position this season.

Since her spot at defender requires her to organize the field, she must be a vocal force for her teammates. However, when it comes to encouragement, she said she would rather pull her teammates aside and talk to them.

But, she said she still has a long way to go before she is an expert at her new spot.

"I would say the mentality of a defender position is the organizer on the field; even this year, I'm struggling every practice and game because there's so much more strategizing," Carly said. "It's just a lot more thinking, and my coach always tells me that it's going to make me a student of the game much more. While anyone on offense can go make a run, I feel like every movement is so much more purposeful because it's the last part of the field."

Still just a sophomore, all of the leadership and play-making responsibilities have "definitely added pressure," Carly said.

But she said most of it has been positive.

"Our coaches are really positive, and they didn't pressure me by saying I had to do this or that," she said. "It was just a pressure that made me want to do well. They gave me this great opportunity to try a new position as a defender, and then let me do what I could with it."

With Carly likely to be a significant contributor to this year's Husker squad, her parents, Jeff and Sarah, are going

to have to continue to split their time between Lincoln and Omaha.

Home games prove the most difficult, Carly said, and she still has no idea how they decide who goes where.

"It's kind of hard for them," she said. "They definitely have a busy schedules going to soccer games."

## PRESEASON ALL-BIG 12

The Big 12 coaches voted Husker junior Aysha Jamani to their preseason all-conference team. Jamani has scored 11 goals with eight assists in two seasons, starting 37 games at forward. She has twice been a second-team all-conference honoree.

## EXHIBITION LOSS

Coach John Walker's young team played its annual exhibition to benefit the Jenna Cooper Memorial Scholarship Fund at Louisville in late August, losing to the Cardinals 2-0. The exhibition series in honor of the late Husker captain is tied at two games each. Eight Husker freshmen saw action in the contest.

## REGULAR SEASON BEGINS

Nebraska was scheduled to open the season at home on Sept. 2 against Northwestern, before traveling to Des Moines, Iowa, to play Drake on Sept. 5.

The remaining schedule: **Sept. 7** — Missouri State; **9** — San Diego State; **14** — Tennessee at Los Angeles; **16** — Georgia at Los Angeles; **21** — St. Louis; **23** — Florida; **28** — \*Oklahoma; **30** — \*Oklahoma State; **Oct. 5** — at \*Colorado; **7** — at \*Texas; **12** — at Lamar; **14** — at \*Texas Tech; **19** — \*Baylor; **21** — \*Texas A&M; **26** — at \*Kansas; **28** — at \*Missouri; **Nov. 2** — \*Iowa State; **7-11** — Big 12 Tournament at San Antonio; **16-18** — NCAA first and second rounds; **23-25** — NCAA third round; **Nov. 30-Dec. 2** — NCAA quarterfinals; **7-9** — NCAA Women's College Cup.

\*Big 12 ■



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# Home Sweet Home

*Less travel a positive for squad loaded with newcomers*

**By Mike Babcock**

**N**ebraska's 76-56 loss against Kansas was hardly a highlight of Doc Sadler's first season as Cornhusker coach.

Even so, "ESPN felt like we played so well against Kansas on 'Big Monday' that they're going to put it on again," he said. "So there was good ratings on that game."

Sadler's words were punctuated with a smile. Yes, ESPN will televise this season's Kansas game at the Devaney Sports Center, though on a Saturday night rather than a "Big Monday."

The Kansas game is among three on Nebraska's 2007-08 schedule slated for national exposure compliments of the ESPN networks. ESPNU will televise the nonconference game against Arizona State on Dec. 2, and ESPN2 will carry the Kansas State game on Feb. 20.

Those games also will be played at the Sports Center.

The Cornhuskers are scheduled to play 18 home games, "which I think is important for this basketball team," said Sadler. "I can't tell you all how much I appreciate our administration understanding that and giving us the opportunity to play as many home games as we've got."

The trade-off is that the majority of nonconference opponents are hardly household names in NCAA Division I, with two having provisional status — Presbyterian and North Carolina Central.

"I do understand that everybody



Doc Sadler's second Nebraska team is scheduled to play 18 home games.

would like to play 10 nonconference games against Top 10 teams, but it's difficult," said Sadler. "Our goal is to do what we need to do to give ourselves an opportunity to be competitive in the Big 12 and have a chance to play in the NCAA Tournament."

"I think this schedule allows us to do that."

Nebraska hasn't played in the NCAA Tournament since 1998.

The Cornhuskers will play only one of their first 14 games outside the state, traveling to Western Kentucky

for a Dec. 5 game. They're scheduled to play at the Qwest Center in Omaha twice during that opening stretch, against Creighton on Nov. 24 and against Oregon on Dec. 15.

Nebraska and Oregon played at the Rose Garden in Portland, Ore., last season. The Ducks, who won 68-56, are likely to be ranked in the pre-season Top 10, according to Sadler.

That the Cornhuskers won't travel as much is a positive, Sadler said.

Last season, the Oregon game was a week after they played on the East

Coast, at Rutgers. They also played at Miami a week after playing in the Hawaii Rainbow Classic.

"What I want to try to do is . . . I think we have to recruit from one end of the country to the other," said Sadler. "I've told some of the kids from California we'll try to go back there and play. We'll probably go back to the East Coast and play. But we want to play BCS schools, and the ideal thing would be to get one of those on the road and one of those at home every year, play two of them."

Nebraska's roster, which was finalized about the same time as the schedule, includes four players from California and six from the West Coast. In all, 12 states and two foreign countries are represented on the Cornhuskers' 19-player roster — which is bolstered by six walk-ons.

"I know some of you have questioned whether I can count," Sadler said.

The NCAA allows only 13 scholarship players. Nebraska exceeded the limit when Steve Harley, a transfer from Ardmore, Md., by way of South Plains (Texas) College, completed summer classes. But Jeremy Barr, who transferred from Southern California last December, went home to the Bahamas after a short summer-school session and didn't return, according to the Omaha World-Herald.

Barr was expected to enroll in a junior college.

With six walk-ons, including three who have earned letters (Paul Velandar, Nick Krenk and Ben Nelson), "we've got plenty to practice with this year," said Sadler. They're also going to have an opportunity to play, and "I think that's encouraging

ROSTER				
Center				
Aleks Maric	6-11	275	Sr.	
Forward				
Chris Balham	6-8	235	So.	
Alex Chapman	6-9	225	So.	
Alonzo Edwards	6-7	215	Fr.	
Shang Ping	6-10	230	Jr.	
*Ben Nelson	6-7	210	Jr.	
Guard				
Ryan Anderson	6-4	200	So.	
Ade Dagunduro	6-5	190	Jr.	
Steve Harley	5-11	170	Jr.	
Sek Henry	6-3	195	So.	
Toney McCray	6-6	185	Fr.	
Cookie Miller	5-7	165	Fr.	
Brandon Richardson	6-0	160	Fr.	
Jay-R Strowbridge	5-11	185	So.	
*Paul Velandar	6-2	190	Jr.	
*Nick Krenk	6-0	170	Jr.	
*Mike Diacos	6-1	175	Fr.	
*Cole Salomon	6-4	220	So.	
*Andrew Wickland	6-5	170	Jr.	
*Walk-on				

for a lot of reasons."

Krenk, who's from Nebraska City, and Cody Salomon, a transfer from Nebraska-Kearney, are the only Nebraskans on the roster — Salomon is from Omaha, Millard North High School.

"I think that any time you can add anybody, whether it be a scholarship player or a non-scholarship player from Nebraska, they bring a high, high level of character, and they understand what this program's about," Sadler said. "So I think that's something I'm excited about."

Though eight of the 13 scholarship players are new, all 13 were new to Sadler a year ago. So that's positive. Plus, "I really like the guys we've recruited," he said. "I think I learned

something last year that I think all of us know but sometimes get confused as coaches and think maybe talent is the most important thing. But I do think that character is something that's a very, very close second.

"I like our talent, and I do feel like we've got some high-character kids who are willing to work. Saying that, by no means are we where we want to be. I don't think we've climbed the ladder, gone from step one to the top in a year. But we've climbed a couple of steps." ■

SCHEDULE	
Nov. 2	Nebraska Wesleyan (exh.)
Nov. 6	Wayne State (exh.)
Nov. 10	Presbyterian College
Nov. 17	Alabama A&M
Nov. 20	Norfolk State
Nov. 24	@Creighton
Nov. 26	IPFW
Dec. 2	Arizona State (ESPNU)
Dec. 5	@West. Kentucky (FSN Midwest)
Dec. 9	Rutgers
Dec. 11	Savannah State
Dec. 15	Oregon (Qwest Center-Omaha)
Dec. 22	North Carolina Central
Dec. 29	Alcorn State
Jan. 4	Maryland-Eastern Shore
Jan. 12	Kansas (ESPN)
Jan. 15	@Colorado (FSN Midwest)
Jan. 19	Baylor (ESPN+)
Jan. 26	@Kansas (ESPN+)
Jan. 30	@Missouri (FSN Midwest)
Feb. 2	Iowa State (ESPN+)
Feb. 6	@Kansas State (FSN Midwest)
Feb. 9	Texas Tech (ESPN+)
Feb. 13	Missouri
Feb. 16	@Iowa State (ESPN+)
Feb. 20	Kansas State (ESPN2)
Feb. 23	@Texas A&M (ESPN+)
Feb. 27	Oklahoma
Mar. 1	@Oklahoma State (ESPN+)
Mar. 4	@Texas (FSN Midwest)
Mar. 9	Colorado (FSN Midwest)
Mar. 13-16	Big 12 Tournament (ESPN+), Kansas City, Mo.

## BASEBALL

### Huskers Draw Penalties for 'Secondary Violations'

After viewing a report based on the Nebraska athletic department's investigation into violation of NCAA rules in which baseball players exchanged bats for credit vouchers at a Lincoln sporting goods store, the NCAA announced sanctions against Andy Gerch, Craig Corriston and Jeff Lanning, who has transferred to the University of New Orleans — where the sanctions will apply.

Gerch will miss the first 12 regularly scheduled games in 2007-08, while Corriston and Lanning will miss the first

six regularly scheduled games. Jeff Tezak also was involved but will be eligible to play in all 2007-08 games because the benefit he received was worth less than \$100.

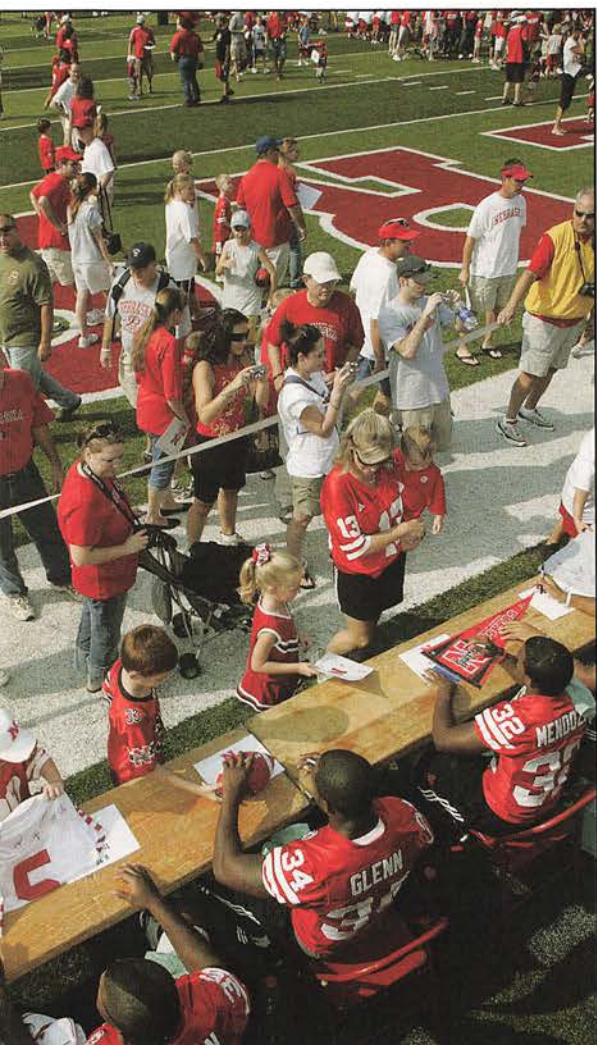
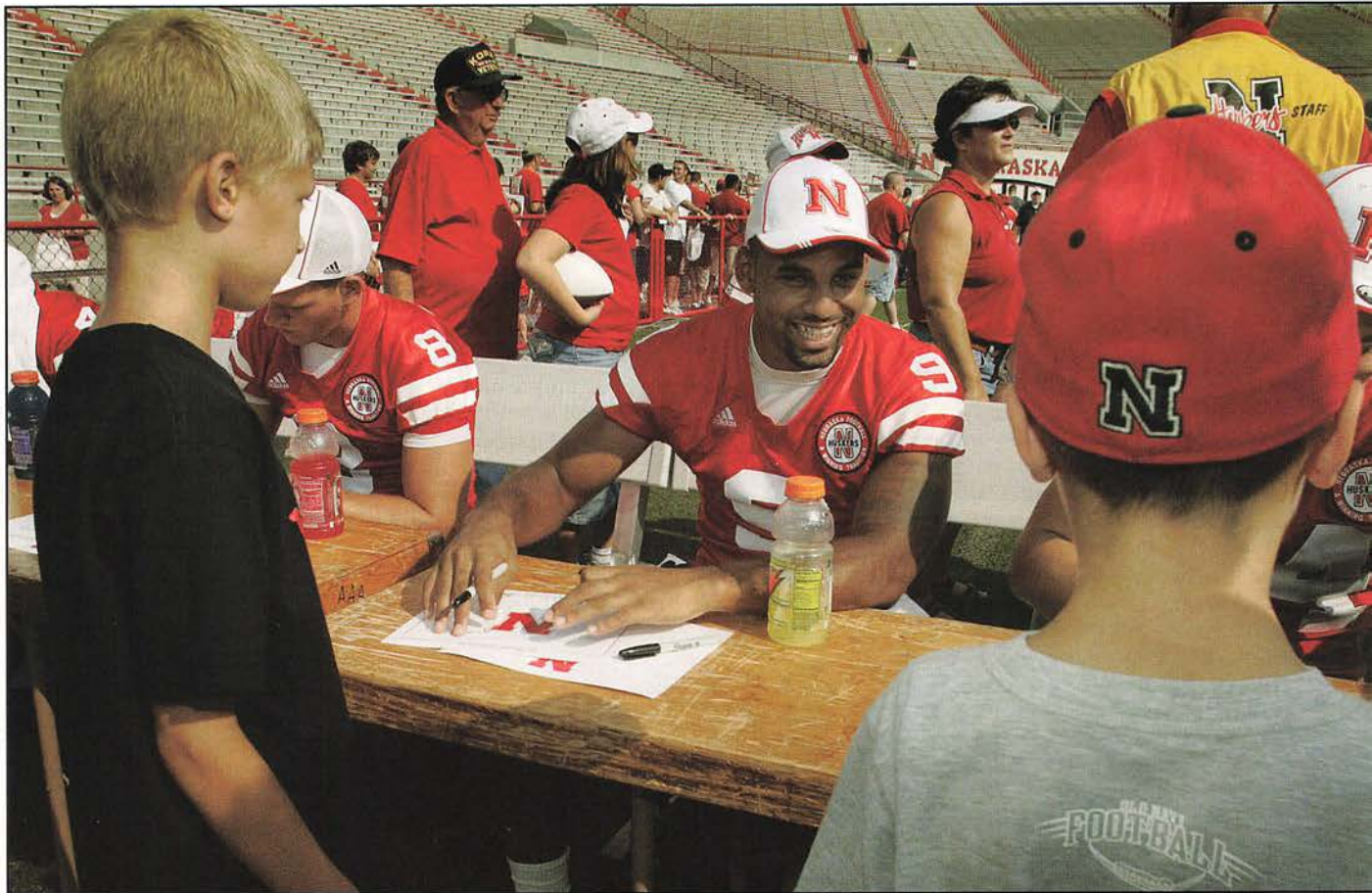
Nebraska recommended the penalties for what the NCAA considers secondary violations.

"I'm very disappointed that these secondary violations occurred," coach Mike Anderson said in a release. "This is no indicative of Nebraska athletics."

Anderson said he would consider further discipline of the players. ■



**Photos By Scott Bruhn**



An estimated 7,000 fans came out to meet coach Bill Callahan (top left) and the 2007 Nebraska football team during the annual Fan Day Aug. 18 at Memorial Stadium. For about 90 minutes, players and coaches had a chance to chat with the fans while signing autographs and posing for pictures.

# Leading by Example

The first time Bill Callahan laid eyes on Brett Byford, he questioned whether the then-redshirted freshman from Hartselle, Ala., would ever play a down at Nebraska.

"He was one of those fellas that couldn't even finish a sprint," Callahan said.

Not that Byford didn't try, however. Plus, he was persistent.

"He just kept working and persevering, and I think his hard work and effort has paid off, considerably, as you look at what he's done," said Callahan.

What he did last season was step in when Kurt Mann, a two-year starter at center, was sidelined by illness. And even when Mann returned, he held onto the starting job.

He played at a high level, Callahan said, "which is what you want your back-ups to do when your starter goes down. But he even exceeded that a year ago.

"And I think he's definitely, in my opinion, an honors candidate."

Honors candidate or not, teammates have a high opinion of him, enough to elect him as a captain, along with linebacker Bo Ruud and cornerback Zack Bowman. All are seniors.

"It's definitely pretty cool," said Byford, the first player from Alabama ever to be so honored. "The last 12 months, man, have just been an incredible ride, how fast things change."

Had someone told him a year ago that he would be elected captain, "I'd probably laugh in your face," he said. "At this time last year, I was just hoping to play in a game, one game."

Bowman, the first Cornhusker captain from Alaska (Anchorage), was hoping to come back from an ACL injury, suffered on the third day of training camp. He did, only to be sidelined by a torn patellar tendon midway through spring practice. He returned two weeks into training camp.

Because of the ACL injury, the junior college transfer has played in only 11 games.

"To be elected captain without a lot of playing time, I think, speaks volumes for what he's done off the field, his relationships with players, his ability to still motivate his teammates, to stay up-beat and positive and to stay connected to the football team," Callahan said. "That's a hard thing to do when you're in rehab because there's a point in time in rehab where you get a little bit depressed and you get disconnected from your teammates. You get into a shell, so to speak."

Bowman never withdrew, however. He was "with our team at every moment when he was hurt, so I think our players truly respect that," said Callahan. "They know what type of player he is when he's totally healthy. And I've just got nothing but great things to say about Zack in

that regard."

Like Byford, Bowman was surprised when his name was called after the voting. Every player could vote for three seniors. "It's a big honor to me," Bowman said. "I've never been captain before in my life. I've got to lead this team by example and by doing the right things."

He's not much on long speeches, said Bowman, "short and simple."

Ruud also plans to lead by example. "I'm never going to be a rah-rah guy," he said. "Sometimes guys think they have to say something every day or every week. You really don't have to do that. It's only when you feel something's wrong or you need to get guys up.

"If I feel the need to say something, I'll say it."

Ruud, a first-team All-Big 12 selection last season, is carrying on a family tradition of Cornhusker captains. His brother Barrett was a captain (2004), as was his dad Tom (1974). An uncle, Bob Martin, was a captain (1975) as well as his great-grandfather Clarence Swanson (1921).

"I would never trade being a captain for anything," Bo Ruud said. "Probably the only one thing I could say I went into college really wanting to be . . . that's the only honor I've ever really wanted, to be a captain. All the other stuff,

it doesn't mean anything to me.

"This means a lot because you know your teammates are the ones who put you there. It's not the media that votes you, the coaches that vote you. Your teammates want you to be their leader."

The voting was close, "very, very close," said Callahan. "Prior to the election, I visited with the seniors and talked to them about leadership and the captains vote, and I told them we have so many great senior leaders that to just rest, to fall upon just three seniors won't be enough. Because I think they all can lead, I don't want the captainship just to be those three. I want it to be the entire senior class.

"That's the message I sent to our senior class. And I think they embraced it."

This is a senior-laden team, with 30 listed on the roster, including 29 who are finishing their careers. I-back Kenny Wilson is a medical redshirt and will return to action next season.

Wilson is learning patience, as Byford did, though not because of an injury. Byford stayed with it, and his commitment has paid off, in many ways. "I've pretty much just been doing the same things since I've been here, treating people right, respecting people, doing my job and just working hard," he said.

"It's definitely been a whirlwind, but it's been a fun ride." ■



Seniors (from left) Bo Ruud, Brett Byford and Zack Bowman were named captains for the 2007 season

# QUICK HITS

## FULLBACK WANTED

With more and more offenses spreading the field and utilizing single-back sets, fullbacks are becoming a dying breed. NFL teams can't find them, Bill Callahan said at the Big 12 media days in San Antonio in late July. "They're tough to come by. If you can find one, God bless you."

Fullbacks are largely anonymous, even in offenses that depend on them. The position requires someone who is willing to "come downhill and pack the ice and bloody his nose against a 240-pound linebacker," said Callahan. "That's just not a real natural and fun thing to do."

Finding a fullback to replace Dane Todd was a priority during training camp, with senior Andy Sand and junior Thomas Lawson climbing to the top of the depth chart.

Senior Matt Senske was regarded as the favorite to succeed Todd, a first-team All-Big 12 selection by the conference coaches. But Senske, who walked on as did Sand and Lawson, missed spring practice following back surgery and wasn't included on the training camp roster of 105.

Sand was a tight end (and defensive end) in high school, and played tight end his first three seasons at Nebraska. He switched positions during training camp a year ago.



Andy Sand

He and Todd also were teammates at Lincoln Southeast High School.

"Pretty much, we're an extension of the offensive line," said Sand. "We're just blocking every play, for the most part. We get out on a few pass routes, but there's not a whole lot of glory in it. I think it's a great job. I like doing it. It's always been a great tradition, the fullback at Nebraska."

"It's changed a little bit. You don't carry the ball..."

Todd had three career carries, two as a redshirted freshman on coach Frank Solich's final team and one last season, on a fake punt early in the second quarter of the Cotton Bowl game.

Even so, the offense includes some running plays for the fullback, "one or two," said Sand. "But I don't know if we'll ever run them. We usually put a bigger running back in there."

The 6-foot-2 Sand is listed at 230 pounds (his weight in the spring) but weighed 240 during training camp, after working hard during the off-season. He weighed 200 pounds, at most, when he came to Nebraska. "Seriously, I never thought I'd get this big," he said.

The additional weight allows him to take on linebackers on isolation blocks.

## TIGHT END DEPTH

Redshirted freshman tight ends Dreu Young and Mike McNeill drew mention from Callahan at the end of training camp "because of their ability as pass receivers," he said. "They're still getting better as run-blockers, but their strength is as down-field receivers."

Young and McNeill join seniors J.B. Phillips, Josh Mueller and Sean Hill and junior Hunter Teafatiller at the position. Only Matt Herian is gone from last season. "I like our depth," said Callahan. "I think that was the deepest position we had going into training camp, and it still is."

The tight ends combined to catch 35 passes last season for 336 yards and 10 touchdowns. The touchdowns notwithstanding, that's "not the type of production I'm accustomed to," Callahan said at the Big 12 media days in San Antonio. Young and McNeill should help in that.

## TOUGHER THAN FOOTBALL

Each newcomer was made available for interviews during training camp, two at a time (except for the last grouping of three). Freshman Roy Helu Jr., a running back from San Ramon Valley High in Danville, Calif., was asked to compare his style to another running back. He didn't compare himself to others, he replied, but if he did, "it would be a rugby play-



Roy Helu

er, New Zealand's Jonah Lomu.

Helu and Lomu are both of Tongan descent. "I always loved rugby. In my culture that's our sport," said Helu, who played for a club team at San Ramon Valley.

Lomu, by the way, stands 6-5 and weighs 265 pounds.

Playing rugby has helped Helu as a football running back. "It's angles, rugby's all about angles if you're going to break something. I definitely learned open-field running," he said.

As for which sport is tougher, "it's different," Helu said.

"You've got to play offense and defense in rugby. Even though you guys probably don't believe it, it's probably more physical, injury-wise, because of all the pads we have."

Helu knew about Cornhusker quarterback Sam Keller before coming to Nebraska. Keller also is a graduate of San Ramon Valley High. "I learned about him in the eighth grade," said Helu.

## PREDICTABLE QUESTION

When freshman Prince Amukamara met with reporters, he was asked about his first name. "My dad, in Nigeria, is like the chief of a village, and his name is 'Prince.' I'm a Jr. So I'm kind of like a prince in a village in Nigeria, but... I don't know," said Amukamara.

Just as everyone asks about his first name, nearly everyone mispronounces his last name.

The proper pronunciation is "Ah-moo-kuh-mair-a."

Amukamara, who was recruited as an athlete, played cornerback during training camp and also spent some time at running back. "He's a two-way player," cornerbacks coach Phil Elmassian said. "That's a great compliment to the kid, really. He can do both."

He also has the skills to play safety, according to Elmassian.



Prince Amukamara

## VILLAGE PEOPLE

I-back Kenny Wilson, who is sitting out the season because of broken leg suffered in an off-season accident, was a regular at practice during training camp, wearing a white hard hat with red N's on the sides and a red stripe down the middle, like a Cornhusker helmet.

"He's trying out for the Village People," cornerbacks coach Phil Elmassian told the Omaha World-Herald. "We're going to bring them back, buddy."

## MANNING WATCH LIST

Conference-area media selected Sam Keller as Big 12 Newcomer of the Year in late July, before training camp began. And he was included on the watch list for the Manning Award in early August, before he was named the starter by coach Bill Callahan.

Keller was among five Big 12 quarterbacks on the list. The others were Chase Daniel of Missouri, Graham Harrell of Texas Tech, Bobby Reid of Oklahoma State and Colt McCoy of Texas.

Oh yes, Keller's picture also was inset on a regionalized cover of Street & Smith's college football yearbook. The cover featured Oklahoma running back Allen Patrick.

## PERSONAL TRAGEDY

Senior wide receiver Maurice Purify went home to California late in training camp following the death of a brother, 29-year-old Ronald Spears, from gunshot wounds in Oakland, Calif. ■

# CROSSWORD

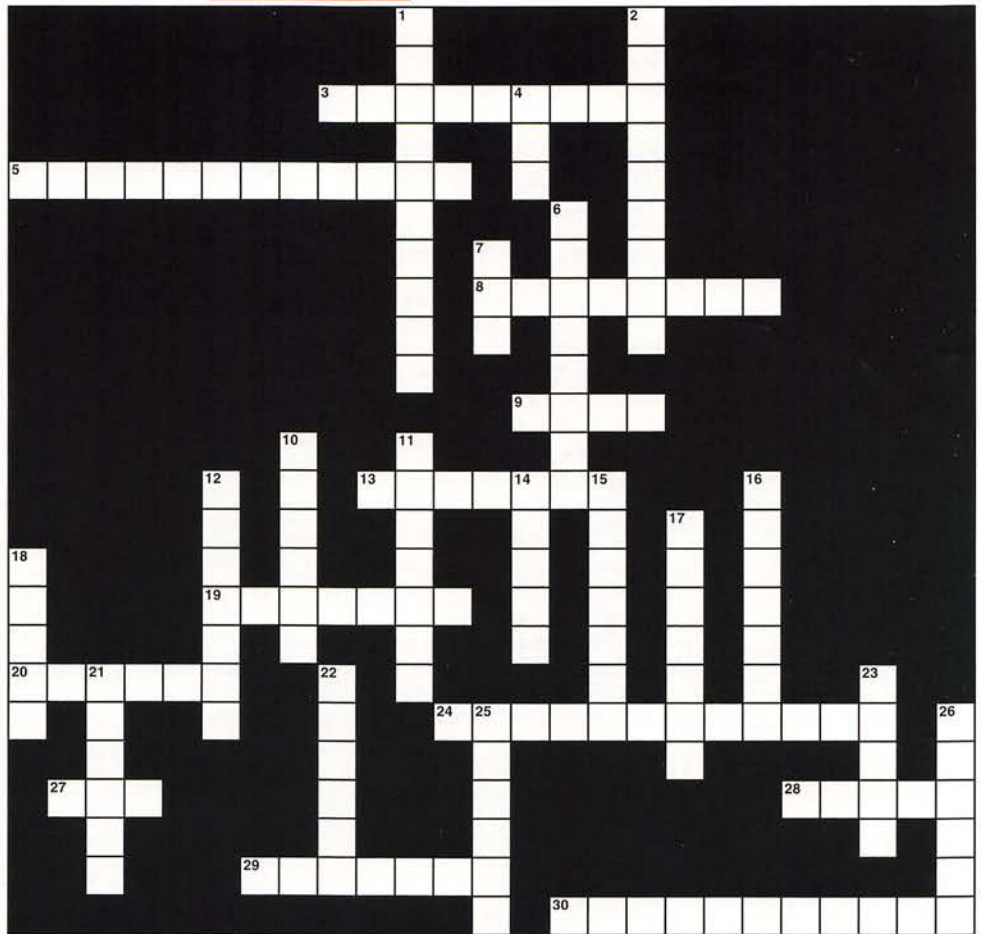
## ACROSS

- 3 Lydon Murtha's home state
- 5 Wake Forest nickname
- 8 Linebackers coach
- 9 Wears No. 61
- 13 Freshman kicker
- 19 Wears No. 5 (defense)
- 20 Wears No. 1 (defense)
- 24 Opponent in 2008 opener
- 27 Sept. 15 opponent
- 28 Coach before Bill
- 29 Bo Ruud's older brother
- 30 Wears No. 62

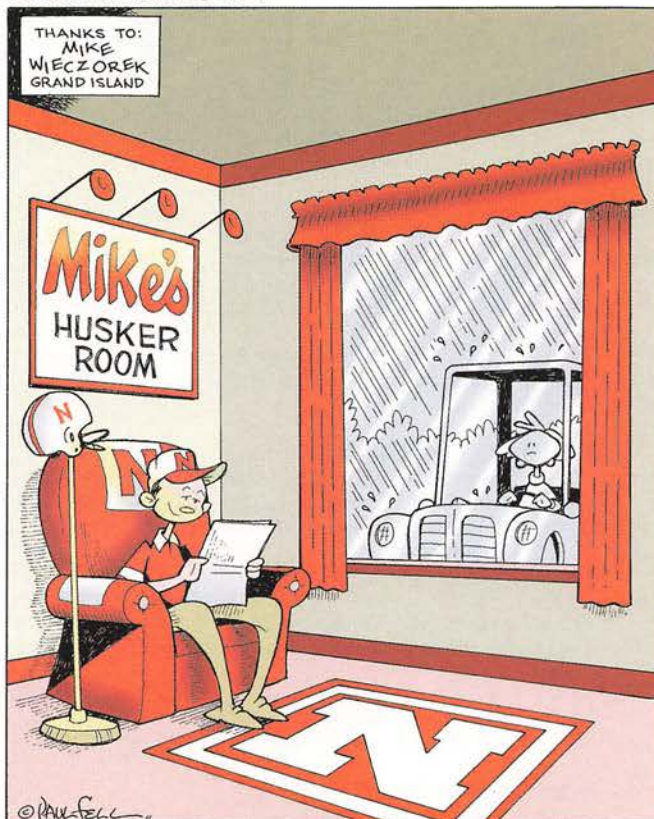
## DOWN

- 1 City for Big 12 Championship game
- 2 Head coach in 1950
- 4 Wears No. 93
- 6 Oct. 6 opponent
- 7 Wake Forest's conference
- 10 Wears No. 59
- 11 Tight ends coach
- 12 Dan Titchener's home state
- 14 Wears No. 5 (offense)
- 15 Bill Callahan's hometown
- 16 Head coach in 1956
- 17 Leading tackler in 2006
- 18 Wake Forest head coach
- 21 Quarterbacks coach
- 22 Wears No. 9 (offense)
- 23 Terrence Nunn's home state
- 25 Safety from Virginia
- 26 Leading tackler in 2005

Answers in Sept. 15 issue



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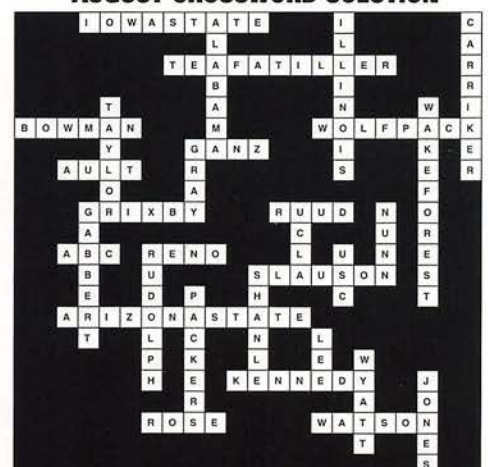
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## AUGUST CROSSWORD SOLUTION



# 10 YEARS AGO . . .

**Huskers Illustrated looks back  
at some of the top stories of 1997**

**Sept. 13, 1997:  
Volume 17, No. 8**

## **PIG TALE**

Arkansas native Eric Warfield (NU's first scholarship recruit from the state in nearly 40 years) is long on experience, even if he doesn't have the starts at free safety.

## **SIDE OUT: FREE AT LAST**

Confined to the bench last season with a knee injury, Katie Jahnke was voted as the "(volleyball) player most likely to surprise in 1997."

## **HUSKERS SHELL OUT MONEY, PUNISHMENT IN 59-14 WIN OVER AKRON**

Akron's football team appeared to be none the worse for wear, physically, and its athletic department was \$450,000 to the good. So two out of three isn't bad, right?

The Zips did Nebraska a favor by agreeing to visit Memorial Stadium for the opening game of Tom Osborne's 25th season. And they were paid handsomely for the trouble.

Trouble? Try 59-14, which would have been embarrassing under most circumstances. The way Akron coach Lee Owens saw it, however, losing to the No. 6-ranked Cornhuskers was no disgrace. "Seeing this up close and personal, I have not



see a better football team than Nebraska," he said.

The thing is, Owens didn't see the Cornhuskers at their very best.

Well, he did sort of. But I-backs DeAngelo Evans, Jay Sims and Dan Alexander, fullback Willie Miller and split end Kenny Cheatham all missed the game because of injuries. Plus, Ahman Green, the No. 1 I-back, played on the first two quarters before his back tightened up at halftime.

Green carried just nine times, but gained 99 yards and scored two touchdowns, as did quarterback Scott Frost, fullback Joel Makovicka and Correll Buckhalter, Green's back-up.

Buckhalter was one of six true freshmen among the 101 Cornhuskers who saw action against Akron. The others were quarterback Bobby Newcombe, split end Matt Davison,

rush end Kyle Vanden Bosch, cornerback Erwin Swiney and rover Joe Walker, who enrolled in January and practiced in the spring. Junior college transfer Brandon Harrison, another newcomer, also played at cornerback.

None was more anticipated than Newcombe, who touched the ball for the first time in fielding a kickoff late in the third quarter and returning it 16 yards. He took his first snap from center with 12:47 remaining. The play was supposed to be a pass, but he ended up scrambling 22 yards.

Newcombe turned the wrong way after taking the snap. He was "a little nervous," quarterbacks coach Turner Gill said with a laugh. "I guess that shows you a little bit of the talent he has . . ." ■

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## 'His Own Man'

*New Blackshirt Potter focus of attention because of the player he replaced*



**Mike  
BABCOCK**

WHEN ZACH POTTER SHOWED UP for practice on Tuesday, he figured he would find a Blackshirt in his locker. After all, he practiced with the first-team defense throughout training camp.

Still, you never know until you see a black practice jersey with your number and name.

He entered the locker room and saw teammates with the coveted jerseys. But his locker is in a corner and he couldn't see whether it contained a Blackshirt. So "I was kind of nervous," he said.

Although he had been among those pictured on the Blackshirt schedule poster, "until you actually get it in your possession and you have a practice with it, it's not truly official," said Potter.

When he saw the Blackshirt "that was a big rush," he said.

"Now I've got to work hard to keep it because you can always have something like this taken away if you're not doing well in practice. You've just got to keep working hard."

Potter, a junior from Omaha, was among 15 players who earned Blackshirts in training camp, and among six who earned them for the first time. The other first-timers were juniors Ty Steinkuhler and Armando Murillo and sophomores Ndamukong Suh, Phillip Dillard and Larry Asante.

Potter immediately called his dad to share the excitement, delaying a call to his mom only because "she talks a little bit longer, so it was easier to get my dad out of the way," he said.

"It's just a feeling I have, just a great feeling."

Having grown up in Nebraska served to enhance the feeling. He knew about the Blackshirt tradition long before he committed to the Cornhuskers. He saw posters of the Blackshirts. He heard fans talk about them. And he thought, "wow, it would be really cool to get one of those," he said.

Then, the past two seasons, he saw first-hand how special the tradition is.

More specifically, he watched as Adam Carriker pulled on a Blackshirt before practice. And he imagined what it would be like when Carriker finished and he would step up.

Potter plays the position Carriker played, of course. And that has led to constant comparisons, particularly in the spring, when Carriker was taken in the first round of the NFL draft.

The other defensive linemen, Suh, Steinkuhler and Barry Turner, dealt with similar talk and speculation, whether or not they were ready to step up as starters.

Potter was the focus of the most attention, however, because of the player he replaced.

Still, "Zach's his own man," defensive coordinator Kevin Cosgrove said near the end of training camp. "I don't think he tried to be Carriker . . . it's tough to be that. You look at the size and the length and the strength he has, you see some of the same characteristics (as Carriker)."

Even though he's a junior, Potter is a young player, according to Cosgrove. He didn't redshirt, playing as a true freshman on special teams. His specialty was blocking kicks.

And he saw limited action as Carriker's back-up last season.

He played well in the spring and played even better during training camp, said Cosgrove. "He's made some big strides. He's playing with more confidence right now.

"I think he's stronger and more explosive than he's been."



**Zach Potter is the new starter at the position played by Adam Carriker.**

With that as a backdrop, Potter got his first start as a Blackshirt against Nevada, along with Steinkuhler (who was sidelined by a knee injury), Suh, Murillo, Asante and Barry Turner.

Dillard was starting for only the second time, Steve Octavien for a third.

"It's their shot, and they all have to prove themselves," said Cosgrove.

That couldn't be accomplished in one game against Nevada. But on a day when most fans came away discussing an offense that produced 625 total yards featuring the run and projecting what quarterback Sam Keller can do with a passing game that now will include Maurice Purify, the defense was dominant.

And not just because of a core of seniors that includes linebackers Corey McKeon, Bo Ruud,

Steve Octavien and Lance Brandenburgh and defensive backs Cortney Grixby, Tierre Green, Bryan Wilson and Zack Bowman, who has returned from injuries to both knees.

Mix in some others, among them new junior college transfers Kevin Dixon and Shukree Barfield, sophomore Rickey Thenarse, redshirted freshman Ben Martin . . . well, there's no reason to list the entire defensive roster. The point is, Cosgrove can substitute situationally.

And they're all striving for that black practice jersey.

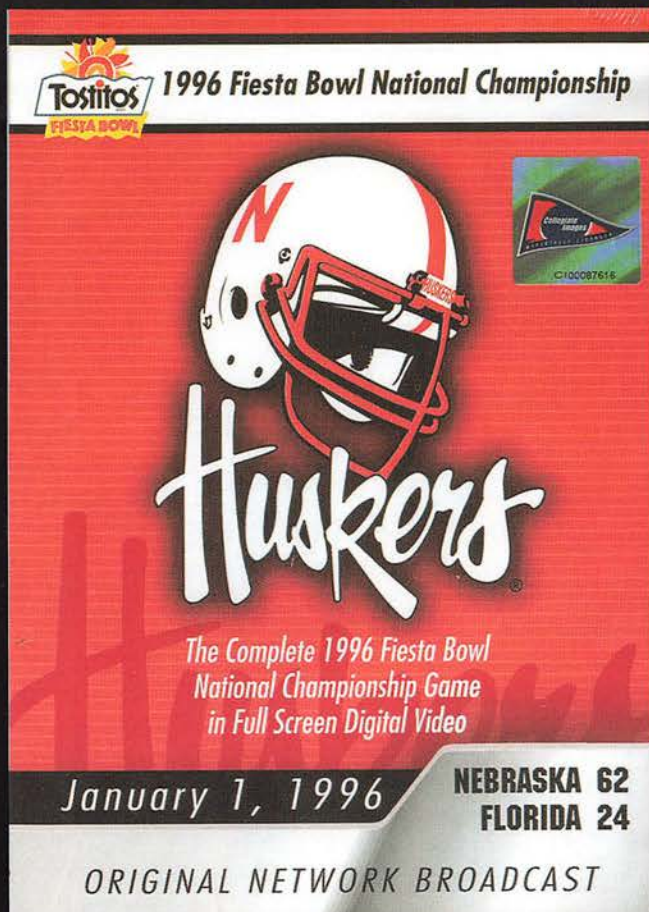
Suh, who's from Portland, Ore., was unfamiliar with the Blackshirt tradition until he got to Nebraska. But he quickly understood its significance and set his sights on earning one.

He realized "it's not going to be given to me, by any means," he said. "Your expectations of being a Blackshirt have to be exceeded. You have to play up to that level at all times." ■

*Mike Babcock is a former sports columnist for the Lincoln Journal Star. He has covered Nebraska football for nearly 30 years. Mike can be reached at MBABCOCK1@neb.rr.com or P.O. Box 6782, Lincoln, NE 68506.*

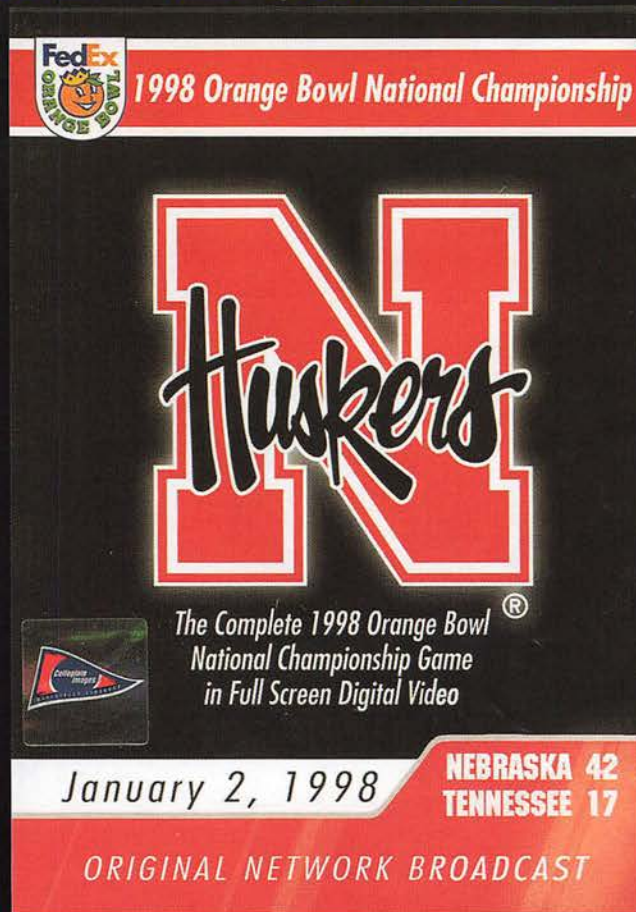
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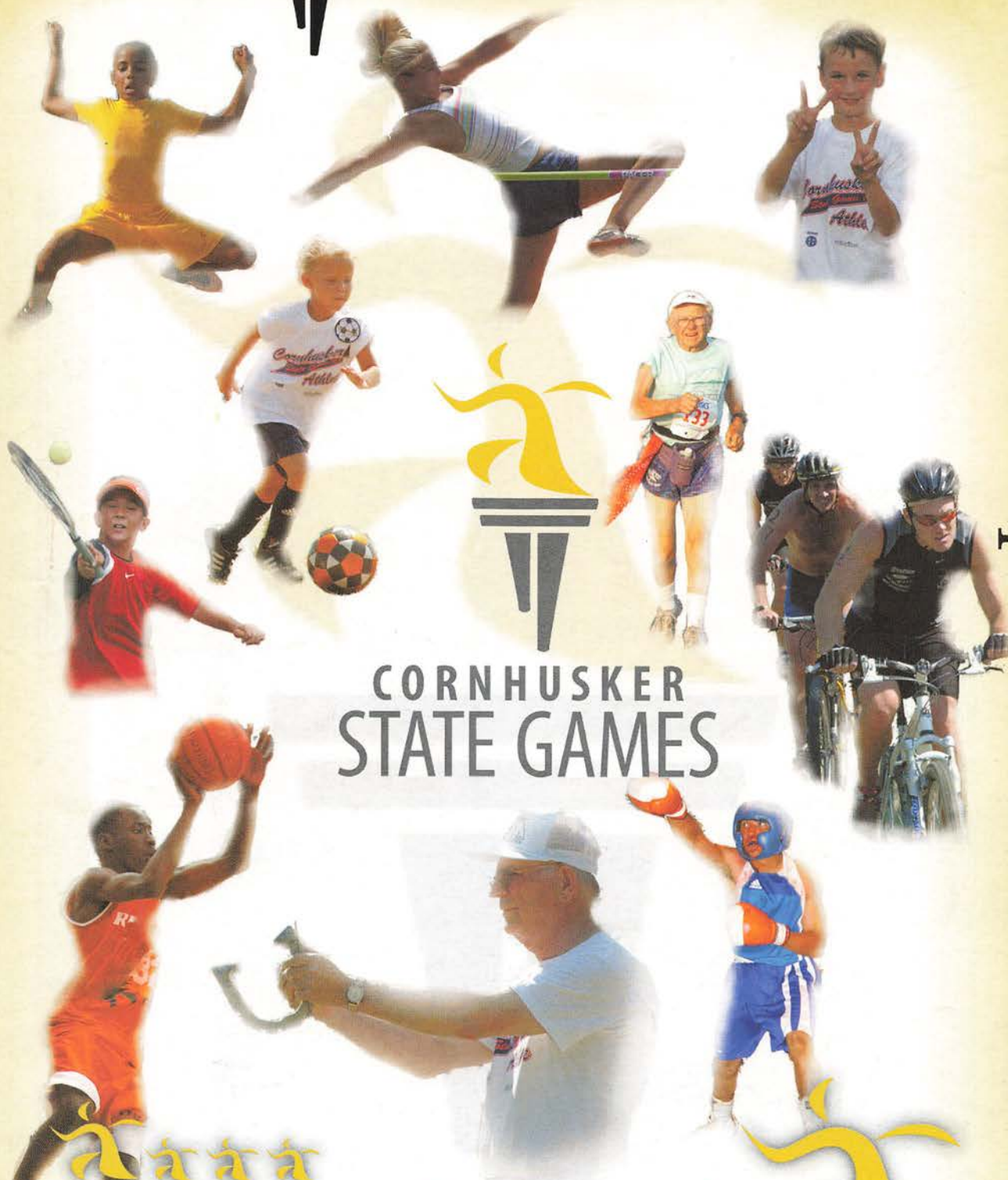
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